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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1946

J. F. DAVIDSON,

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee,
Somerset County Council.

THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Tenth Annual Report upon the Health Administration of the County.

The Report is a routine one, and, in the main, deals with statistical information.

The year has been one of difficulty on nearly every side, and staff shortages, particularly in the nursing, midwifery, and domestic sections, have given rise to grave and continued anxiety.

Generally, the Report shows a satisfactory state of Public Health in the Administrative County.

I continue to be greatly assisted by all members of the staff, whose efforts during the year have been of the best description.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. F. DAVIDSON,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Hall,
Taunton.

December, 1947.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres): 1,028,992.

Population (1946): 445,390.

Live Births:— Total 7,935; Legitimate 7,444; Illegitimate 491; Still births 175.

Deaths:—Total 5,545; Urban 2,626; Rural 2,919.

Rateable value:—£2,794,926 (1946).

Sum represented by a penny rate:—£11,357 (1946-47); £11,476 (1947-48).

Birth rate:—17.82. Illegitimate births, 6.19 (percent).

Death rate:—12.45.

Deaths under 1 year of age:—263. Rate of infantile mortality:—33.1.

The birth rate shows an increase from last year's figure (16.90). The percentage of illegitimate births is still high but shows a decrease from last year's figure (10.55). The normal illegitimate rate for Somerset was between 3 and 4 per cent., and so the present percentage is double the usual rate.

The death rate (12.45) is slightly lower than for the previous year (13.23). It is again satisfactory to record that the rate of infantile mortality is only 33.1, a fall from 33.9 last year, and this year's figure is only a shade higher than the remarkably low rate of 32.85 returned in 1942.

The chief causes of death were heart diseases (1,572 deaths), cancer and other forms of malignant disease (867 deaths), bronchitis and pneumonia (389 deaths), and tuberculosis (194 deaths).

The essential statistical returns covering births, infantile mortality, and deaths are given in the following tables from I to V.

TABLE I.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro spinal fever	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Scarlet fever	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough	4	1	3	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	159	0	0	0	104	42	13
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	35	1	4	7	13	10	0
Syphilitic diseases	27	1	0	0	4	10	12
Influenza	66	6	2	0	8	11	39
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	5	0	0	0	4	1	0
Acute inf. encephalitis	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
Cancer of buc. cavity & œsoph. (M), uterus (F)	90	0	1	0	4	39	46
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	173	0	0	0	5	45	123
Cancer of breast	115	0	0	0	11	54	50
Cancer of all other sites	489	0	0	3	30	168	288
Diabetes	37	0	1	0	0	8	28
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	697	1	1	0	11	122	562
Heart disease	1572	0	1	1	35	237	1298
Other diseases of circ. system...	190	0	0	0	4	29	157
Bronchitis	221	4	2	1	8	30	176
Pneumonia	168	24	9	0	18	36	81
Other respiratory disease	78	0	0	1	9	22	46
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	50	0	0	0	7	21	22
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	13	11	2	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis	18	0	0	4	4	9	1
Other digestive diseases	148	1	4	2	17	37	87
Nephritis	179	0	0	2	17	43	117
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other maternal causes	6	0	0	0	6	0	0
Premature birth	96	96	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	99	86	5	3	3	2	0
Suicide	39	0	0	0	10	17	12
Road traffic accidents	43	0	1	5	19	10	8
Other violent causes	121	23	8	3	12	15	60
All other causes	600	7	5	6	46	97	439
All causes	5545	263	50	38	412	1117	3665

TABLE II.

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1946.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AXBRIDGE.	BATHAVON.	BRIDGWATER.	CHARD.	CLUTTON.	DULVERTON.	FROME.	LANGPORT.	LONG ASHTON	SHEPTON MALLET.	TAUNTON.	WELLINGTON.	WELLS.	WILLITON.	WINCANTON.	YEOVIL.	TOTAL RURAL DISTRICTS.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro spinal fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Whooping cough ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	5	12	8	7	8	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	76
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	4	1	2	2	2	0	1	3	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	24
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	2	3	0	14
Influenza ...	3	3	10	2	2	1	2	3	5	2	4	0	2	2	2	4	47
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cancer of buc. cavity & œsoph. (M), uterus (F) ...	4	3	2	0	5	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	5	6	1	8	46
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	5	14	7	14	12	1	0	3	7	3	6	4	6	10	4	7	103
Cancer of breast ...	4	2	3	7	7	2	4	4	7	2	2	2	2	1	5	7	61
Cancer of all other sites ...	24	26	21	11	15	8	15	15	23	14	24	12	8	11	23	17	267
Diabetes ...	0	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	1	4	19
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	33	36	30	17	28	9	11	17	44	9	23	15	13	22	32	27	366
Heart disease ...	97	88	71	33	55	19	31	43	64	30	58	36	42	40	56	57	820
Other diseases of circ. system...	6	4	5	7	8	2	1	7	9	4	9	6	6	1	13	5	93
Bronchitis ...	8	6	13	12	14	0	5	6	15	7	8	5	1	9	4	5	118
Pneumonia ...	9	6	11	7	6	2	9	3	11	3	8	2	4	6	5	3	95
Other respiratory disease ...	1	4	12	1	4	1	0	2	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	5	38
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	3	2	2	1	0	1	3	1	24
Diarrhœa, under 2 years ...	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Appendicitis ...	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	10
Other digestive diseases ...	9	3	6	3	4	1	5	0	8	6	7	0	2	12	5	10	81
Nephritis ...	4	7	12	5	4	0	5	10	11	4	3	3	4	6	3	2	83
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Premature birth ...	5	6	3	5	5	2	0	6	5	4	4	2	0	2	2	7	58
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	3	7	4	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	9	4	48
Suicide ...	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	1	16
Road traffic accidents ...	5	2	1	2	5	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	24
Other violent causes ...	6	6	4	2	4	2	6	4	5	8	6	2	0	5	2	3	65
Ali other causes ...	26	20	26	17	17	12	6	20	22	15	18	10	10	26	25	32	302
All causes ...	267	269	260	159	210	71	115	159	264	126	198	110	114	173	210	214	2919

TABLE III.

Causes of Death at all Ages in each District during the Year 1946.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	BRIDGWATER.	BURNHAM.	CHARD.	CLEVEDON.	CREWKERNE.	FROME.	GLASTONBURY.	ILMINSTER.	KEYNSHAM.	MINEHEAD.	NORTON-RADSTOCK.	PORTISHEAD.	SHEPTON MALLET.	STREET.	TAUNTON.	WATCHET.	WELLINGTON.	WELLS.	WESTON-SUPER-MARE.	YEOVIL.	TOTAL URBAN DISTRICTS.	COUNTY TOTAL.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro spinal fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Whooping cough ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respir. system..	14	1	0	3	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	1	4	2	16	1	2	2	19	8	83	159
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	11	35
Syphilitic diseases ...	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	13	27
Influenza ...	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	5	19	66
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Acute inf. encephalitis ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Cancer of buc. cavity & œsoph. (M), uterus (F) ...	2	2	0	3	0	1	1	0	3	1	4	3	1	0	7	0	1	0	10	5	44	90
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	8	7	3	4	2	3	0	3	4	2	4	1	2	2	5	0	1	0	11	8	70	173
Cancer of breast ...	5	2	0	2	1	3	3	0	0	5	3	3	1	2	3	2	3	2	13	1	54	115
Cancer of all other sites ...	20	12	4	10	7	15	3	4	13	9	8	2	7	6	30	2	4	2	43	21	222	489
Diabetes ...	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	3	1	0	0	2	2	18	37
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	29	14	7	23	7	19	10	4	7	15	17	3	4	1	36	4	11	10	84	26	331	697
Heart disease ...	77	29	21	38	11	39	17	10	18	23	31	17	12	20	94	9	30	20	174	62	752	1572
Other diseases of circ. system...	7	4	6	5	0	6	8	2	4	2	5	3	3	2	14	1	5	3	10	7	97	190
Bronchitis ...	17	1	4	3	3	6	1	1	4	4	5	0	1	0	10	0	4	2	26	11	103	221
Pneumonia ...	9	3	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	13	2	3	2	16	10	73	168
Other respiratory disease ...	5	2	0	5	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	2	5	1	0	2	8	2	40	78
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	8	1	26	50
Diarrhœa, under 2 years ...	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	13
Appendicitis ...	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	18
Other digestive diseases ...	6	2	2	6	2	6	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	10	3	2	0	13	4	67	148
Nephritis ...	11	2	2	7	1	3	5	0	8	4	10	4	0	4	9	0	2	2	17	5	96	179
Puerperal and post-abortion. sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
Premature birth ...	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5	1	2	0	11	7	38	96
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases ...	9	2	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	3	1	1	2	13	3	51	99
Suicide ...	1	1	0	2	0	4	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	1	23	39
Road traffic accidents ...	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	5	2	19	43
Other violent causes ...	3	3	2	6	1	4	0	1	0	2	4	0	1	1	9	0	1	0	16	2	56	121
All other causes ...	18	20	11	28	8	10	3	5	5	16	15	7	11	2	40	3	6	10	51	29	298	600
All causes	261	113	68	152	45	139	60	32	81	95	134	52	52	51	332	31	81	60	562	225	2626	5545

TABLE IV.

Table showing, for each Rural District, the number of Births and Deaths, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality.

RURAL DISTRICTS.	Area. Acres.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.	Popula- tion.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Axbridge	90,551	432	267	12	24,100	17.93	11.08	27.8
Bathavon	42,106	370	269	20	20,270	18.25	13.27	54.1
Bridgwater	86,769	326	260	13	18,710	17.42	13.90	39.9
Chard	54,600	209	159	8	11,570	18.06	13.74	38.3
Clutton	42,641	317	210	10	16,880	18.78	12.44	31.5
Dulverton	78,980	72	71	3	4,328	16.64	16.40	41.7
Frome	51,933	203	115	8	10,190	19.92	11.29	39.4
Langport	59,407	242	159	10	12,280	19.71	12.95	41.3
Long Ashton	46,515	399	264	12	23,170	17.22	11.39	30.1
Shepton Mallet	47,777	195	126	9	10,060	19.38	12.52	46.2
Taunton	70,682	294	198	11	17,820	16.50	11.11	37.4
Wellington	37,911	140	110	4	7,663	18.27	14.35	28.6
Wells	57,175	155	114	1	9,889	15.67	11.53	6.5
Williton	97,364	192	173	5	12,450	15.42	13.90	26.0
Wincanton	64,540	298	210	10	16,410	18.16	12.80	33.6
Yeovil	53,495	382	214	13	18,290	20.89	11.70	34.0
Totals of Rural Districts	982,446	4,226	2,919	149	234,080	18.05	12.47	35.3

TABLE V.

Table showing, for each Urban District, the number of Births and Deaths, the number of Deaths of Infants, also the Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Rate of Infantile Mortality.

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Area. Acres.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.	Popula- tion.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Bridgwater	1,677	442	261	11	20,180	21.91	12.93	24.9
Burnham	2,246	143	113	10	8,516	16.79	13.27	69.9
Chard	1,030	90	68	4	4,707	19.12	14.45	44.4
Clevedon	3,296	140	152	5	9,445	14.82	16.09	35.7
Crewkerne	1,291	62	45	2	3,713	16.70	12.12	32.3
Frome	1,194	185	139	8	10,660	17.35	13.04	43.2
Glastonbury	5,019	77	60	1	4,818	15.98	12.45	13.0
Ilminster	531	58	32	0	2,462	23.56	13.00	0.0
Keynsham	4,170	119	81	2	7,142	16.66	11.34	16.8
Minehead	2,816	104	95	2	6,984	14.89	13.60	19.2
Norton-Radstock	3,370	210	134	6	11,580	18.13	11.57	28.6
Portishead	911	89	52	1	4,146	21.47	12.54	11.2
Shepton Mallet	2,278	75	52	3	4,798	15.63	10.84	40.0
Street	3,069	77	51	2	4,999	15.40	10.20	26.0
Taunton	2,428	534	332	12	31,150	17.14	10.66	22.5
Watchet	493	51	31	2	2,387	21.37	12.99	39.2
Wellington	2,211	112	81	3	6,967	16.08	11.63	26.8
Wells	1,336	99	60	3	5,696	17.38	10.53	30.3
Weston-s.-Mare	4,923	611	562	25	38,890	15.71	14.45	40.9
Yeovil	2,257	431	225	12	22,070	19.53	10.19	27.8
Totals of Urban Districts	46,546	3,709	2,626	114	211,310	17.55	12.43	30.7
Administrative County	1,028,992	7,935	5,545	263	445,390	17.82	12.45	33.1
England and Wales, 1946	—	—	—	—	—	19.1	11.5	43.0

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The clinics are held regularly at the following centres:—

Name of Clinic.	Started.	Medical Officer.	No. of Sessions.	New cases seen.	Average attendance per Session.
Taunton and Somerset Hospital	April, 1931	Dr. K. C. Bailey ...	50	194	19.0
Weston-super-Mare Hospital	Dec., 1932	Dr. J. McGarvey ...	22	34	4.5
Yeovil and District Hospital	Nov., 1945	Dr. K. C. Bailey ...	51	116	8.0
Bridgwater Health Centre	May, 1938	Dr. K. C. Bailey ...	21	22	2.0
Minehead Hospital	May, 1946	Dr. K. C. Bailey ...	29	32	4.0

This Table shows some expansion in this work; it is to be hoped that this trend will be continued.

Blind Persons Acts, 1920 and 1938.

The general work under these Acts is carried out by the Somerset Blind Association on behalf of, and with a grant from, the County Council. This Association also deals with necessitous Blind and their dependents. Six Home Teachers were employed by the County Blind Association during 1946. There are 17 Home Workers under the supervision of the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum Workshops. At the end of 1946 there were 910 persons in the County registered as blind, compared with 900 at the end of 1945. Certification by a medical practitioner with special experience in ophthalmology is required before registration. Where possible we make use of the County Oculists for certification purposes and during 1946 they examined 59 cases, 40 of whom were admitted to the register.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Generally, the Isolation Hospital beds which were available were the same as for the previous year. The cases of notifiable diseases and their distribution are set out in table VI.

The hospital accommodation was found to be adequate for the needs. Staffing difficulties in various hospitals were acute, and this matter gives continual anxiety.

With regard to the individual diseases, the experience of the County during the year was fortunate.

There was a marked drop in the number of cases of measles and of dysentery. Diphtheria showed only 40 cases against 79 last year. Scarlet fever cases were less but whooping cough showed an increase of slightly over 100 cases.

Cancer. The County Council Scheme for which approval has been obtained continues to work as set out in the report for 1944. This, however, is a limited scheme, and, owing to local difficulties, it has not been possible to bring about all the suggestions made in the original draft arrangements.

The co-ordinating machinery embracing our neighbouring local authorities and the Bristol Royal Hospital continues to operate but progress remains slow.

In the present year, the number of in-patients treated under this scheme in Somerset was 270 while the number of out-patients was 549; the cost was approximately £7,500.

Finally, it is clear that, when it is practical, sub-treatment centres must be established at certain points in Somerset, and one of these must be at Taunton. The present long travelling distances impose a great hardship on the patients, and this point requires a great deal of attention when the new arrangements are devised.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI.

	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Dysentery.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
URBAN												
Bridgwater	5	20	1	0	7	2	3	0	5	5	0	0
Burnham	4	1	4	0	2	0	2	0	13	3	1	0
Chard	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	4	0	0
Clevedon	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	30	7	0	0
Crewkerne	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Frome	2	6	1	0	1	1	2	0	22	6	0	0
Glastonbury	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	13	0	1	0
Ilminster	1	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keynsham	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	8	7	2	0
Minehead	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
Norton-Radstock	5	12	0	1	1	0	1	0	14	6	1	0
Portishead	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	4	8	0	0
Shepton Mallet	15	9	0	0	3	0	2	0	15	1	0	0
Street	4	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	39	5	0	0
Taunton	4	43	1	0	16	0	1	0	46	5	2	0
Watchet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington	3	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wells	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
Weston-super-Mare	5	37	1	0	0	1	0	1	128	17	1	0
Yeovil	1	4	5	1	11	2	0	0	35	13	0	0
RURAL												
Axbridge	16	18	2	1	0	1	2	1	113	17	0	0
Bathavon	23	15	1	0	1	1	0	1	7	12	1	0
Bridgwater	2	9	2	0	1	1	0	0	9	3	0	1
Chard	7	61	2	0	0	1	0	2	13	3	1	0
*Clutton												
Dulverton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	5	0	0
Frome	4	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	25	7	0	0
Langport	6	10	1	0	0	1	1	0	21	4	6	1
Long Ashton	7	19	3	1	2	0	3	1	61	28	1	0
Shepton Mallet	31	5	0	0	3	0	1	0	18	5	0	0
Taunton	13	18	5	0	1	0	0	6	6	2	0	0
Wellington	3	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0
Wells	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	32	6	0	0
Williton	1	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	3	0	0
Wincanton	89	14	0	1	3	0	1	0	94	12	2	0
Yeovil	8	33	1	0	4	0	0	0	61	9	1	0
Urban Districts	58	212	19	2	50	10	12	8	408	88	9	0
Rural Districts	210	234	21	5	18	5	8	11	522	116	12	2
Administrative County	268	446	40	7	68	15	20	19	930	204	21	2

*No return available.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The attendances of Somerset cases at the various clinics for the past three years have been as follows:—

Clinic.	New Cases.				Attendances.			
	1944	1945	1946	Increase or decrease during 1946.	1944	1945	1946	Increase or decrease during 1946.
Bath	50 (29)	46 (33)	75 (45)	+ 29	930	836	1,188	+352
Bristol	92 (58)	120 (75)	200(133)	+ 80	1,132	775	1,567	+792
Taunton	75 (44)	80 (55)	127 (59)	+ 47	1,427	1,263	1,207	- 56
Yeovil	139 (81)	137 (79)	140 (88)	+ 3	953	831	965	+134
Bridgwater ...	146(106)	109 (67)	126 (59)	+ 17	1,078	1,163	1,014	-149
Frome	59 (28)	28 (17)	26 (17)	- 2	358	194	275	+ 81
Minehead	26 (19)	15 (14)	18 (10)	+ 3	179	139	136	- 3
Weston-super-Mare	111 (75)	158(115)	150(106)	- 8	1,699	1,631	1,234	-397
All Clinics	698(440)	693(455)	862(517)	+169	7,756	6,832	7,586	+754

The table distinguishes between the cases which are definitely venereal and those non-venereal who attended for investigation and diagnosis, the second group figures being in brackets. It will be seen that the figures show a decrease in cases and attendances. In addition 123 military cases were treated.

During the year the following examinations were made:—

Samples.	For Clinics and Hospitals.	For Medical Practitioners.	Total.
Wasserman ...	998	1,057	2,055
Gonococcus ...	0	15	15
Spirochetes ...	3	0	3
Fixation and other tests ...	281	331	612
	1,282	1,403	2,685

TUBERCULOSIS.

Year.	Phthisis Death rates.			Other Tuberculous Diseases			Tuberculosis Death-rate.	Deaths in a population of 406,000.	
	Rural.	Urban.	County.	Rural.	Urban.	County.	County.	Phthisis.	All Tuberculosis
1946	0.32	0.39	0.36	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.436	145	177

TABLE VII.

New cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the County during 1946.

Age Periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
1—5	0	3	7	4	0	0	3	1
5—10	8	7	9	4	0	0	3	4
10—15	5	9	11	8				
15—20	25	29	3	3	51	53	5	8
20—25	36	37	3	2				
25—35	87	80	6	8				
35—45	72	39	3	5				
45—55	39	10	1	4	29	13	2	8
55—65	17	9	1	3				
65 and upwards	8	4	0	0	9	4	0	0
Totals	297	228	45	40	89	70	14	21

This table shows there were 6 more pulmonary but 11 fewer non-pulmonary notifications than in the previous year. There was 1 more pulmonary and 6 more non-pulmonary deaths. The tuberculosis death rate shows little change from last year.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC ANALYST
FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the work carried out in the Public Analyst's Laboratory during 1946.

The work consisted of an examination of samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Statutory Rules and Orders of the Ministries of Health and Food, and the Public Health Acts. In addition chemical analyses of water, sewage and effluents, and other special analytical work has been undertaken.

The Statutory Rules and Orders made by the Minister of Food have been very numerous during the past few years and standards have been fixed for many foodstuffs. It follows that there has been an increase in the amount of analytical work to be carried out on individual samples. The Labelling of Food Order (No. 2) which came into force in the latter part of 1945 relates to the sale or display by retail of any pre-packed foods, and requires that the label shall state, among other things, the appropriate designation of the ingredient (if only one) or the usual name of the food and the appropriate designation of each ingredient and unless the quantity or proportion of each ingredient is specified, the ingredients should be in the order of the proportion in which they were used, the ingredient used in the greatest proportion (by weight) being specified first. Amendments to this Order bring intoxicating liquors sold in bottles within its purview, and in the case of liquors made wholly or in part from fruit or fruits, the label must state the facts, naming the fruit or fruits and the minimum alcohol content. This will probably help to prevent the sale of the cheap fruit wines which are low in alcoholic strength.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, etc.

The total number of samples submitted for analysis under the above Acts and Orders was 1,182, of which 41, or 3.5 per cent., were adulterated or incorrect compared with 5.8 per cent. in the previous year. Apart from 2 samples received from private individuals, they were all submitted by the Inspectors, including 18 "Appeal to Cow" samples of milk.

Nature of samples submitted by Inspectors.

	Number Examined.	Number Incorrect.	Percentage Incorrect.
Milk	520	21	4.0
Condensed and Evaporated Milks ...	13	—	—
Dried Milk	6	—	—
Cheese	8	—	—
Butter	81	4	4.9
Margarine	21	—	—
Other Edible Fats	31	—	—
Cereals	17	—	—
Baking and Golden Raising Powders ...	11	—	—
Sausages	27	4	14.8
Other Meat and Fish Products	32	—	—
Extracts—Meat, Vegetable and Malt ...	6	—	—
Tea, Coffee and Cocoa	41	—	—
Condiments	12	2	16.7
Pickles and Sauces	15	—	—
Vinegars	22	—	—
Jam, Marmalade, etc.	37	—	—
Gelatine	6	1	16.7
Canned Products (Peas, Beans, Soup, etc.)	21	—	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	68	3	4.4
Soft Drinks	9	3	33.3
Non-alcoholic Wines	9	—	—
Sweetened Mineral Water	4	—	—
Beer, Cider and Spirits	72	—	—
Drugs	91	3	3.3
Disinfectants	2	—	—
	1,182	41	3.5

Details of the samples returned as incorrect are given in the following tables:—

A. Milk Samples.

No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.	No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
6306	5% Water ...	To be re-sampled.	6557	11.5% Fat ...	Cautioned.
6307	4% Water & 11% Fat	do.	6620	16.5% Fat ...	do.
6309	18% Fat ...	do.	6688	13% Fat ...	do.
6345	14% Water ...	Fined £5 5s. 0d.; Costs £2 12s. 0d.	6723	5.5% Water ...	Dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of Costs £5 5s.
6356	3.5% Water ...	Vendor was not Producer. Samples from both at future date.	6724	3.5% Water ...	
			6725	1% Water ...	
6383	4.5% Water and 5.5% Fat	To be re-sampled.	6735	10% Fat ...	To be re-sampled.
6384	2% Water ...	do.	7119	10% Fat ...	Dismissed.
6385	2% Water ...	do.	7144	13% Fat ...	Official sample from retailer genuine.
6386	14.5% Water ...	Fined £10 10s. 0d.; Costs £2 12s. 0d.	7145	7.5% Water ...	Fined £5; Costs £5 18s. 0d.
6504	10% Fat ...	To be re-sampled.	7408	11% Water ...	Dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of Costs £5 5s.

No. 6309. A sample was taken on delivery to the retailer and was found to have a fat content of only 2.97 per cent. The farmer milked by machine and the strippings were not mixed with the bulk of the milk. He agreed to correct this procedure.

Nos. 6383, 6384 and 6385 were samples of milk delivered to a factory. Factory informed that further samples would be taken at a future date.

No. 6504. Driver of lorry did not know at which of two sources the milk sampled had been produced.

No. 6620. Another sample from the same producer taken at the same time contained 4.3 per cent of fat. On a previous occasion a sample with a low fat content had been sold by this producer and the "appeal to cow" also had a low fat content. The farmer was cautioned that probably this was due to the fact that the intervals between milkings differed by too much.

No. 6688. Two "appeal to cow" samples were taken, Nos. 6718 and 6719. The former was produced under as near as possible the same conditions as the original sample and contained 2.8 per cent. of fat, whereas the bulked milk contained 3.2 per cent. of fat. A dairyman buys the bulk of this producer's milk and the latter milks the necessary number of cows to give this quantity and keeps the remainder, which was from 2 or 3 cows in this case. There did not appear to be any opportunity for the abstraction of fat. Cautioned, and suggested that the milk should be bulked before taking a portion for the dairyman.

No. 7408. By comparison of the freezing points of this sample and those of three "appeal to cow" samples, the original sample was shown to contain 20 to 22.5 per cent. of added water. There was a doubt raised as to whether this was a sample of the producer's own milk or was some that he bought from a factory. The charge was found to be proven and while it was probable that the sample was from the factory milk, it was by no means certain. It was suggested that the milk bottles should be marked so that there would be no mistake in future.

Average Composition of Milk Samples.

Year.	Total Solids.	Fat.	Solids-not-fat.
1945 ...	12.45 ...	3.67 ...	8.78
1946 ...	12.67 ...	3.77 ...	8.90

B. Other Adulterated Samples.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
6454	Butter ...	0.04% Boric Acid ...	Fined £95, Costs £9 9s. 0d.
6456	do. ...	0.06% do. ...	
6457	do. ...	0.05% do. ...	
6522	Pork Sausages ...	18% Deficient of Meat ...	Cautioned.
7045	Beef Sausages ...	32% do. ...	Fined £6, Costs £4.
7097	do. ...	41% do. ...	Fined £5 5s. 0d., Costs £5 5s. 0d.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
7125	Home-made Lemonade ...	{ 96.5% Deficient of Sugar ... 50.5% Deficient of Saccharin ...	Cautioned.
7208	Orange Essence Flavouring ...	Label incorrect ... (No name, address or volume stated)	do.
7223	Ground Nutmeg ...	Label incorrect ... (No weight declared)	do.
7257	Ginger Wine Essence ...	Label incorrect ... (No volume declared)	do.
7265	Lime Juice Cordial ...	46.5% Deficient of Sugar ...	do.
7270	Butter ...	Consists of Margarine ...	do.
7289	Beef Sausage Meat ...	24% Deficient of Meat ...	Fined £1, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.
7319	Ground Ginger ...	Label incorrect ... (No name, address or weight declared)	Cautioned.
7355	Ginger Cordial ...	{ 23.3% Deficient of Citric Acid ... 6.6% Deficient of Sugar ...	Reported to the Ministry of Food.
7359	Ginger Wine Essence ...	Label incorrect ... (No volume declared)	Cautioned.
7391	Gelatine Powder ...	250 parts of Zinc per million ...	do.
7402	Health and Liver Salts ...	Label incorrect ...	Reported to Manufacturers.
7403	Chlorophyll Compound Tablets..	do. ...	Reported to Pharmaceutical Society.
7424	Neuro Phosphates ...	do. ...	do.

Nos. 6454, 6456 and 6457. The offence would appear to be almost trivial, but taken in conjunction with the fact that margarine was found in the vendor's butter factory, the indications were that the boric acid had found its way into the butter by the addition of margarine. The Reichert values were within the range for genuine butter but the Polenske values were high and the Kirschner values indicated about 80 per cent. of butter, which is in agreement with the small amount of boric acid found. The Vendor was prosecuted in two courts, in the one for the sale of butter containing boric acid and in the other for having margarine in his factory. In the first case he was fined £70 and costs £6 6s. 0d. and in the second he was fined £25 and costs £3 3s. 0d.

No. 7045. Legal proceedings for deficiency of meat content of sausages are taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The defending Solicitor argued that the purchaser had not been prejudiced as there was no standard fixed under this Act, but the prosecution held that the standard fixed by the Meat Products, Canned Soup and Canned Meat (Control & Maximum Prices) Order, 1946, was a guide to the magistrates in arriving at a decision as to the amount of meat which should be present in sausages. The bench held that the prosecution was correct.

No. 7125. Home-made Lemonade. Complaints against the retailer were received. It appears that she diluted concentrated soft drinks and sold them in S.D.I. bottles. The vendor was cautioned and samples will be taken at a future date. As the sale took place prior to 21.10.46 the previous Order No. 838, 1943, was taken as the standard instead of Order No. 945, 1946.

No. 7289. Beef Sausage Meat. The defence stated that the mixing machine had been out of action for some months awaiting repairs, so that the ingredients of the sausage meat had to be mixed by hand after the meat had been put through a mincer. This, in my opinion, would hardly account for a deficiency of 24 per cent. of meat, and there appears to be no reason why the whole mix could not have been passed through the mincer used for the meat.

No. 7355. Ginger Cordial. The manufacturers stated that there was a shortage of citric acid and rather than cut production of the article the percentage of citric acid was reduced. The wholesalers of citric acid stated that they were unable to deliver immediately. The correspondence was sent to the Ministry of Food for their observations, and their reply stated: "A serious view is taken of the practice of decreasing the amount of citric acid present in preference to reducing the output. Enquiries will be made and any necessary action taken depending on the results of these enquiries."

No. 7402. Health and Liver Salts. The tin container bore the words "Double Strength" which had no meaning as applied to this article, the formula of which was given. The manufacturers agreed that this was so, but stated that the dose suggested for this pack was half that for a former pack which contained sugar as well as the other ingredients. The manufacturers submitted a proof of the label for a new pack which was satisfactory.

No. 7103. Chlorophyll Compound Tablets. In my opinion this article is recommended as a medicine within the meaning of the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1911, and therefore should bear a disclosure of the amounts of the ingredients present. This was reported to the Pharmaceutical Society, and a reply was received to the effect that when the judgment has been given in a test action now pending in the High Court they will deal with this matter.

No. 7421. Neuro-Phosphates. The pharmacist's name and address did not appear on the bottle in accordance with the requirements of Section 18 (1) (c) (IV) of the Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933. This was reported to the Pharmaceutical Society who are taking the matter up with the pharmacist.

Special Investigations.

The following 14 samples were received for special investigation:—

2 samples of chocolate for poisons	...	None found.
1 stomach contents of calf	...	No evidence of phosphorus or its poisonous compounds. Zinc found in slight traces.
1 separated whey	...	6.72 per cent. total solids.
2 samples of human milk	...	(a) A.M. Fat 1.69 per cent; Solids-not-fat 9.04 per cent.
		(b) P.M. Fat 0.80 per cent.; Solids-not-fat 9.07 per cent.
1 portion of a sewage filter bed	...	Reddish brown spots, probably iron oxide.
7 samples including duck, vegetables, vomit, etc., for metallic poisons.	...	None found.

Chemical Analysis of Waters.

68 samples of water were analysed, and in addition to the usual routine chemical analysis, estimations of fluorine in the Compton Durville supply, the determination of the chlorine demand of various samples in connection with chlorination, and tests with reference to the action of water on metals, especially lead, were carried out.

Sewages, Effluents, etc.

The number of samples examined is given below:—

Sewage and effluents	...	48
River and stream samples	...	18
Trade effluents	...	8
Drinking water for cattle	...	1
Total	...	<u>75</u>

Samples of crude sewage have been analysed in connection with the proposed re-construction of sewage works. In these cases a series of samples are taken over a period to show the variations in the strength of the sewage from day to day. The trade effluents included effluents from milk, leather and paper factories.

EDWARD T. ILLING, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.,

February, 1947.

County Public Analyst.

TABLE VIII.
Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths.

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Primary cases notified.		Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis.	RURAL DISTRICTS.	Primary cases notified.		Deaths during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths during the year from other varieties of Tuberculosis.
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.		
Bridgwater —	42	5	14	1	Axbridge —	10	6	5	4
Burnham —	11	1	1	0	Bathavon —	25	2	12	1
Chard —	2	0	0	0	Bridgwater —	26	3	8	2
Clevedon —	12	5	3	0	Chard —	14	4	7	2
Crewkerne —	1	0	1	0	Clutton —	11	0	8	2
Frome —	13	1	2	1	Dulverton —	11	0	3	0
Glastonbury —	7	1	2	2	Frome —	11	1	2	1
Ilminster —	3	2	0	0	Langport —	9	9	4	3
Keynsham —	4	0	1	0	Long Ashton —	18	7	4	2
Minehead —	21	1	2	1	Shepton Mallet —	7	1	2	2
Norton-Radstock —	9	0	2	1	Taunton —	13	4	7	2
Portishead —	1	0	1	0	Wellington —	4	1	2	0
Shepton Mallet —	6	1	4	0	Wells —	14	2	2	1
Street —	6	0	2	0	Williton —	34	2	2	2
Taunton —	45	6	16	4	Wincanton —	15	4	4	0
Watchet —	8	0	1	0	Yeovil —	21	3	4	0
Wellington —	11	0	2	0					
Wells —	8	2	2	0					
Weston-s-Mare —	42	3	19	1					
Yeovil —	30	8	8	0					
Totals	282	36	83	11	Totals	243	49	76	24

TABLE IX.
Admissions to Sanatoria during 1946.

Sanatorium.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Quantock	96	59	1	156
Chard	15	50	0	65
Taunton	21	20	0	41
Wincanton	26	0	0	26
Musgrove Park (open from 6-11-46)	16	0	0	16
Compton Bishop	0	0	35	35
Bath Orthopædic Hospital ...	2	1	10	13
Other non-county beds ...	12	11	11	34
	188	141	57	386

TABLE X.

Cases treated through the County Dispensaries.

Dispensary.	Persons treated at Dispensaries during 1946.		Under treatment at Dispensaries December 31st, 1946.		Total Dispensary Attendances 1946.	Total Persons examined 1946.
	Insured.	Uninsured.	Insured.	Uninsured.		
Bath (County) ...	14	24	1	7	479	161
Bridgwater ...	412	395	51	39	2,015	781
Bristol ...	14	41	4	18	604	237
Chard ...	96	62	37	9	457	155
Clevedon ...	27	34	9	12	609	208
Frome ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glastonbury ...	6	0	6	0	203	169
Minehead ...	59	65	14	10	883	181
Portishead ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radstock ...	110	101	96	49	476	476
Shepton Mallet ...	12	7	12	7	108	55
Taunton ...	322	263	294	241	1,771	598
Weston-super-Mare ...	60	64	18	21	1,193	476
Wincanton ...	6	3	6	5	73	46
Yeovil ...	34	47	11	19	817	436
	1,172	1,106	559	437	9,688	3,979
	2,278		996			

Quantock Summer Camp. The Camp was not held this year.

Tuberculosis Allowances Scheme. Up to the end of the year 484 cases have been accepted since the adoption of the Scheme in Somerset on 4th July, 1943. Payment of allowance has ceased, however, in 343 of these cases owing to return to work and for other reasons.

Tuberculosis Officer's Clinical Report for 1946.

Dr. Short, County Tuberculosis Officer, has written the following report:—

The year 1946 was again a busy one, especially in the first half, when a disquieting number of acute cases, already in stage 3, were seen for the first time. There was also a series of cases of acute Tuberculous Meningitis in both children and adults which proved rapidly fatal.

Towards autumn this acute phase began to pass off and since then the type of case seen for the first time has been less severe and more amenable to treatment.

Men and women from the various Services still come back to us with rather severe symptoms, but these, too, are getting less, and it looks as though the tide of war-time loss of control of T.B. is at last on the ebb.

Non-pulmonary tuberculosis has again shown a decrease on the previous year, especially as regards the abdominal type.

The strain on your Sanatorium beds continued acute until the Musgrove Park unit began to function and thus to release non-pulmonary beds at Chard for pulmonary patients. This enabled us to reduce the waiting period for patients to a much less serious figure and it has been of untold benefit to the whole County.

Somerset was the first English county to cover its area with voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committees, and for 30 years their help has been invaluable. Some of them are now feeling that they may no longer be needed, but I am sure that this is a mistake and I hope that every encouragement will be given to them to continue.

They find that voluntary gifts are now most difficult to obtain and they need help in this important matter.

When I gave my first annual report to you the death rate in Somerset from Tuberculosis was 0.970. In this, my last report, it is 0.436. One can only be thankful that such a result of your work has been possible.

Sanatorium or hospital treatment was given to 370 cases. In addition, many open-air shelters were provided, those in actual use on December 31st, 1946, being 31, which is the number of shelters available. Milk, for a period of six or eight weeks was provided in 57 cases, dental treatment for 7 cases, X-ray examinations for 2,543.

Treatment by the use of artificial pneumothorax has been continued and the cases dealt with are shown in the following table:—

	At Dispensary or home of patient.	At Institutions.	Total.
Primary inductions	0	49	49
Refills	329	2,590	2,919

The new cases seen numbered 2,215, and were classified as follows:—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	T.B. Negative	286	
	T.B. Positive Stage 1	9	
	T.B. Positive Stage 2	115	
	T.B. Positive Stage 3	52	
		—	462
NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	Bones and Joints	18	
	Abdominal	4	
	Other Organs	2	
	Peripheral Glands	24	
		—	48
Not Tuberculous			1,671
Diagnosis not completed on 31st December, 1946			34
			—
			<u>2,215</u>

Quantock Sanatorium. The Medical Superintendent, Dr. V. C. Martyn, has furnished the following report:—

The Sanatorium has been open for the reception of 111 cases (66 males and 45 females) throughout the year. During this time 156 cases have been admitted, of whom 96 were males and 60 females. 152 patients were discharged, 93 males and 59 females. Two of these cases were not tuberculous. There were also 3 deaths. The average stay for male patients was 250 days and for female patients 259 days. This is an average of 36 weeks for each patient.

Artificial pneumothorax treatment was carried out in all suitable cases. There were 34 inductions, 1,268 refills for in-patients and 101 for out-patients.

X-ray. 498 films were taken and 720 cases were screened.

7 cases were operated on for Phrenic crush at Minehead Hospital. 8 cases received Sanocrysin treatment. There were 14 aspirations and replacements by air.

2 cases were sent to Frenchay Hospital for thoracoplasty.

During the year, one nurse entered for Part I of the certificate of the Tuberculosis Association and passed, and nine entered for Part II and passed, two of them with honours.

RESULTS OF TREATMENT.

WEIGHTS.

Increase in weights in Kilos. (1 Kilo.=2.2 lbs.)

		<i>Less than 6.</i>	<i>6—12.</i>	<i>12 and over.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Males	...	47	17	4	68
Females	...	31	13	5	49

The average gain in weight of { 117 patients weighed on discharge = 4.98 kilos.
68 male patients weighed on discharge = 4.36 „
49 female patients weighed on discharge = 5.82 „

The average loss in weight of 27 patients weighed on discharge = 3.17 „

5 patients were not weighed on discharge, including 3 who died.

Working capacity of patients on admission and discharge.

		<i>Full Working Capacity.</i>		<i>Fit for light work.</i>		<i>Unfit for work.</i>	
		<i>Admission.</i>	<i>Discharge.</i>	<i>Admission.</i>	<i>Discharge.</i>	<i>Admission.</i>	<i>Discharge.</i>
Males	...	0	5	0	18	93	70
Females	...	0	14	0	14	57	29

On admission all patients were unfit for any work. On discharge 12.67 per cent. of all patients were fit for full work; 21.33 per cent. for light work; and 66.00 per cent. were unfit for work.

Classification on admission of patients discharged during 1946.

						Tubercle Bacilli.			
						Positive.		Negative.	
Classification.		M.	F.	Total.	%	M.	F.	M.	F.
Early ...	...	10	16	26	17.57	1	3	9	13
Intermediate ...	...	58	35	93	62.83	23	14	35	21
Advanced ...	...	22	7	29	19.60	22	7	0	0

Complications presented by patients were:—Larynx infection, Pleura, Bronchitis, Neuritis, Hydro-pneumothorax, etc.

Chard Sanatorium. During the year the cases admitted were 47 pulmonary cases and 18 non-pulmonary (50 female, 15 male).

From the pulmonary wards there were 33 discharged and 5 deaths, from the female surgical ward 10 discharged and 1 death; and from the male surgical ward 8 discharged and 1 death.

X-ray. 215 films were taken and 462 screenings made. Collapse treatment was again used. 12 inductions and 632 refills for artificial pneumothorax were done during the year.

Compton Bishop Children's Home. During the year 23 boys and 12 girls were admitted, and of these 17 boys and 8 girls were under 10 years of age. The average stay for "definite" (notified) cases was 37 weeks, and for observation cases 35 weeks. The discharges numbered 40, 25 boys and 15 girls, who will be kept under regular supervision at the County Clinics.

TABLE XI.

QUANTOCK SANATORIUM.

Duration of Treatment and Condition on Discharge.

	Under 3 months.									3—6 months.									6—12 months.									More than 12 months.									Totals.			Grand Totals.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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In 43 out of 90 men discharged the disease was quiescent=47.8 per cent. In 35 out of 55 women discharged the disease was quiescent=63.6 per cent. 1 patient, who had been admitted for observation, was discharged as not tuberculous and is not included in the above figures. Patients who were at the Sanatorium for less than 28 days have been excluded from the above figures.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Midwifery Service. 346 certified midwives notified their intention to practise during the year, 302 working under Committees and 44 independent.

Out of the 224 midwives who worked under the S.C.N.A., 43 resigned and 7 notified for emergency work only, leaving 171 still at work. Of the 28 who notified under independent Associations 5 resigned, leaving 23 still at work. Of the 44 trained midwives working on their own 12 had no midwifery or maternity cases, which left 32 actually at work. 10 worked only as maternity nurse under a medical man. The percentage of 1946 births in the County attended by the nurses as midwives was 47.3.

Summary for all Midwives during the Year.

Cases attended as midwife	...	...	...	...	3,833
Cases attended as monthly nurse	...	...	...	...	3,260
Doctor sent for for mother	...	...	...	...	1,554
Doctor sent for for child	...	...	...	...	228
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	49
Death of mother	...	...	...	...	3
Death of child	...	...	...	...	28

The midwives working under Committees attended 3,220 midwifery and 1,856 maternity cases; those working independently 140 midwifery and 813 maternity cases. The Association midwives showed an increase of 137 midwifery and 271 maternity cases; the independent midwives an increase of 39 midwifery and 56 maternity cases.

Only one independent midwife had more than 25 midwifery cases. 10 of these midwives had no midwifery cases, but between them attended 327 maternity cases, while 12 had no cases at all. The 20 midwives in the Maternity Units attended 511 cases. Doctors were called in 1,554 times for the mother and 228 for the child; a percentage of 46.5.

Only 3 deaths of mothers were recorded during the year in which midwives were in attendance as midwives.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Work. Under the ante-natal and post-natal scheme the total numbers of Somerset mothers ante-natally examined and of cases post-natally examined were respectively 1,636 and 228, at a total cost to the County estimated at £695. The total number of examinations were respectively 2,147 and 233.

Consultants for Midwifery Scheme. Under the County scheme 65 cases were accepted and dealt with by the consultant officers.

Drs. Hugh Powell of Weston-super-Mare, and J. M. Sanson of Bath were added to the County Council's panel of Obstetric Consultants.

Assisted Admissions to Maternity Homes or Hospitals. During the year 579 applications were received for assisted admissions to a maternity home or hospital. The County Council accepted responsibility for 488 of these cases, a decrease of 11 over the previous year. The reasons for need of institutional treatment were:—

Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	28
Actual or anticipated obstetric difficulty	...	...	171
Intercurrent disease	...	...	42
Housing or social	...	...	34
Toxæmia	45
Abortions	14
Post-natal complications	6
Other conditions	1
<hr/>			
			341
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In addition 147 Somerset women were admitted to Bridgwater Emergency Maternity Unit and Musgrove Park Hospital for confinement, on account of housing or social conditions.

Dental Scheme for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

This Scheme operates partly through private dental practitioners and partly through dental clinics staffed by officers of the County Council.

Private Practitioners' Cases. Of the 17 denture cases uncompleted at the end of 1945, 11 were satisfactorily fitted and the patients are making proper use of their dentures; the remaining 8 did not attend for further treatment. During 1946, 100 applications were received and 97 accepted. Of these patients, however, 3 made private arrangements, 4 left the area, and 35 did not proceed with treatment. 25 full dentures and 14 part dentures were fitted and extractions performed for 8 patients. In each case a report has been received from a Medical Officer or Health Visitor that the dentures were satisfactory and in use. In the remaining 8 cases dentures are not completed and the patients are still attending for treatment.

Under the main scheme clinics were held at Frome and Bridgwater. Owing to inadequate equipment the clinic at Glastonbury was temporarily discontinued. The work done is shown in brief in the following table:—

	Frome.	Bridgwater.
No. of new patients	10	12
No. of sessions	22	22
No. of attendances for general treatment	37	52
Extractions	62	179
Fillings	1	—
Other treatment	5	16
No. of attendances for dentures	50	78
Impressions	26	65
Bites	21	15
Try-Ins	23	13
Plates inserted	19	23
Other treatment	1	6
Cases recommended for dentures	17	11

Maternal Mortality.

	1918	1928	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Puerperal Sepsis ...	8	14	4	3	5	6	3	6	6	3	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	20	12	10	1	10	15	16	18	10	11	6
Total ...	28	26	14	4	15	21	19	24	16	14	7
Rate per 1,000 Births	5.14	4.36	2.59	0.71	2.57	2.72	2.44	3.13	1.90	1.84	0.86

Puerperal Sepsis.

During the year 76 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Arrangements have been made with different Hospitals to take in County cases, and facilities are offered. During 1946 29 cases were so admitted. The special unit at the Taunton Isolation Hospital again was of very great service.

Care of Infants and Children under School Age.

This work is mainly carried out by home visiting through the appointed Infant Visitors, and supervised by the County Superintendent and staff.

(a) **Visits and Advice in the Homes.** During the year 6,729 births were referred to the Infant Visitors, 3,380 being in rural and 3,349 in urban areas. The service is a most important part of the scheme.

(b) **Infant Welfare Centres.** At the end of 1946 the Centres in the County, exclusive of those at Yeovil, Taunton and Weston-super-Mare which are outside the County Scheme, were the following:—Backwell, Banwell, Bishopsworth, Bishop Sutton, Bridgwater, Burnham, Chard, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Chewton Mendip, Cleeve, Clevedon, Coleford, Compton Martin, Creech, Crewkerne, Curry Rivel, Farmborough, Faulkland, Frome, Glastonbury, Harptree, Highbridge, High Littleton, Holcombe, Ilminster, Keynsham, Kilmersdon, Leigh-on-Mendip, Long Ashton, Mells, Midsomer Norton, Minehead, Nailsea, Nunney, Paulton, Peasedown, Pill, Portishead, Priddy, Radstock, Shepton Beauchamp, Shepton Mallet, Simonsbath, Stanton Drew, Street, Timsbury and Tunley, Wellington, Wells, West Huntspill, Westbury-sub-Mendip, Wookey, Woolavington, Wraxall, and Yatton.

The Centres at Bridgwater, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Bishopsworth are directly controlled by the Council with the valuable assistance of local Committees; and the County Council also make grants towards the expenses of most of the others. Dr. Barker of the County staff was the Medical Officer for the Chew Magna and Farmborough groups of centres, Dr. Cooke for those at Bishopsworth and Highbridge, Dr. Denham for Mells, Leigh-on-Mendip, Timsbury and Tunley, and Dr. Williamson for Chewton Mendip, Westbury and Wookey.

Bridgwater Infant Welfare Work.

During 1946, the number of births notified in the Borough (including still-births and cases later transferred to other districts) was 774. 11 babies died under one year, a rate of 24.9 deaths per 1,000 births. Number of children on visiting list 1,635, total visits paid to infants 5,035.

Centre. Number of individual children who attended, 586; individual mothers, 580; **average attendance per session**—children under 1 year 25, 1 to 5 years 8; average attendance per session of mothers, 25; number of attendances—children 2,958, mothers 2,200; number of medical consultations for infants, 1,435; for women, 1,200; sessions held 91. The medical work was carried out by Dr. Halliday. No regular ante-natal examinations are now carried out at this centre.

Radstock and Midsomer Norton Infant Welfare Centres.

These centres are managed by the County Council with voluntary assistance. Sessions are held twice monthly in each centre, *i.e.*, at the Victoria Hall, Radstock, and the Women's Institute Hut, Welton, Midsomer Norton. Medical consultations are held at alternate sessions and educational programmes are arranged for intermediate dates. Dr. Hilda Ashworth, a local practitioner, acts as Medical Officer, attending once a month. The appointed Infant Visitors (the district nurses) attend and the work is carried on in direct relation to the existing Infant Welfare schemes.

Bishopsworth Infant Welfare Centre.—This centre was opened in March under a voluntary Committee with Dr. Delaney, a local practitioner, as clinic medical officer. Funds not being available to maintain the work, the County Council assumed full financial responsibility and Dr. M. J. Cooke, a whole-time medical officer of the county staff, took over the medical consultations from the beginning of December.

The clinic is open each week and Dr. Cooke visits at alternate sessions.

The figures for these centres are as follows:—

								Radstock.	Midsomer Norton.	Bishops- worth.
Sessions held	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	22	40
Individual children who attended				...	...	...	...	194	227	137
Individual mothers who attended				...	...	...	...	186	183	130
Average fortnightly attendance of children	{ under 1 year... 1—5 years ...							30 26	18 37	10 5
Average fortnightly attendance of mothers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	41	15
Number of attendances of children	{ under 1 year ... 1—5 years ...							683 609	403 827	398 202
Number of attendances of mothers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	918	598
Number of medical consultations	{ children ... mothers ...							261 —	100 133	325 320
Individual children attending centre born in 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	64	54
Individual children attending centre born previous to 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	145	163	73
Number of infants attending for the first time during 1946 :—										
Under 1 year on first attendance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	74	63
Aged 1—5 years on first attendance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	9	74

Banwell and Kewstoke Infant Welfare Centres.

The Banwell Centre is held normally once a month with Dr. Evans of the County Health Department as Medical Officer. No local management committee was formed, but the District Nurse is regularly in attendance. The Kewstoke Centre was restarted during the year.

The figures for these Centres are as follows :—

	Banwell.	Kewstoke.
Sessions held	10	7
Attendances of children under 1 year	144	28
New cases under 1 year	33	12
Attendances of children 1—5 years ...	108	27
New cases 1—5 years	5	9

(c) **Treatment and Supervision of Special and Abnormal Children.** Infant Visitors are encouraged to notify children showing any abnormality or needing extra help, and in previous years extra nourishment grants (Maltoline and Iron) have been extensively used and follow-up enquiries regularly made. Owing to pressure of clerical work and also to the fact that far fewer children need extra nourishment grants from this department, there is not much to report under this section.

Enquiries and correspondence can be grouped under the following heads:—Orthopædic conditions 127; Oculist 67, Blind 0, Ear, Nose and Throat 23. Needing special care owing to ignorance or neglect 13. Mental defects 5. Rickets, catarrhal conditions, etc. 21. Debility and prematurity 31, tuberculosis 3, backward in speech, walking, etc. 7; various 32. Extra nourishment needed and given 31.

The Orthopædic heading includes slight postural defects which may be improved by simple advice, and also surgical conditions treated under the Orthopædic Scheme where the Infant Visitor is kept informed, so that in her visiting she may take an intelligent interest and co-operate in any treatment necessary.

(d) **Baby Hospital, Bridgwater.** The following is a summary of the year's work:—Number in Ward, January 1st, 6; admitted during 1946, 29 (including 2 re-admissions); total 35. The reasons for admission were, as before, mainly nutritional difficulties and prematurity. Average length of stay of cases discharged in 1946—11 weeks. 20 made satisfactory improvement, 6 some improvement, and 5 died. 5 remained in the Ward at the end of the year.

Musgrove Park Hospital—Children's Unit.

This unit was opened on March 1st, 1946, under the direction of Dr. Hamilton, as Senior Paediatrician. From that time until the end of the year 121 cases of varied types of illness were treated.

This unit provides a first-class treatment and investigation centre for children of all ages, and its contribution to child medicine in Somerset is outstanding and unique.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During 1946, 19 cases were notified. Of these 7 cases were sent to hospital. The distribution of the cases is shown in Table VI. All the cases in which treatment was completed showed vision unimpaired at the time of the report.

Birth Control.

During the year the number of applications received by Dr. Halliday from various sources for advice and assistance was 31. Six of these cases were referred to clinics and the rest to private doctors.

Care of Premature Infants and of Illegitimate Children.

Facilities for the care of premature or immature infants are:—

- (1) Small 8-cot ward at Mary Stanley Home, Bridgwater, also used for difficult feeding cases and mal-nourished infants under 1 year; rarely used for older children up to 2 years.
- (2) Immature infants born in maternity homes or hospitals and unfit to return home with their mothers are either transferred to Bridgwater or their maintenance and treatment in hospital is paid for by the County Council on request.

37 neo-natal deaths due to prematurity occurred in 1946.

12 of these died in hospital or nursing home.

25 of these died in their own homes.

The scheme for the care of illegitimate children, which has been in operation since September, 1944, is still proving most successful and a large number of cases have been dealt with, nearly all to a satisfactory conclusion.

Nursing and Maternity Homes.

At the end of the year the number of Homes on the Register was 51. They were all visited from time to time by Dr. Halliday or Miss Nobes to see that the premises were in order and the requirements of the County Council complied with as regards management.

Child Life Protection.

The children on our Register at the end of 1946 numbered 230, and as regards methods of payment may be grouped as follows:—Weekly payments 45, monthly payments 2, per term or otherwise paid for 71, not stated 112.

The number of foster mothers with one child only is 62, with two children—9, with three children—3, with four children—2, with over four children—9.

The foster mothers who run a regular baby home are therefore few, and those with more than 4 infants in their care at the end of 1946 resided one each at Porlock (42 children), Congresbury (20), Cheddar (14), Orchard Portman (13), Wembdon (11), Bawdrip (10), Bridgwater (10), Burnham-on-Sea (7), Weston-in-Gordano (6).

Residential Nurseries.

There are now five residential nurseries in Somerset administered by the Health Department of the Somerset County Council—Holnicote, Bawdrip, Yarlington, Martock and Westlands. All the children are Somerset children with the exception of five evacuees at Westlands. Holnicote and Yarlington are training nurseries, training 35 students a year.

Day Nurseries.

The Evacuation Scheme ceased on the 31st March, 1946. The County Council carried on five Day Nurseries, one at Bridgwater (Friar Street) for children 0—2 years, one at Frome for children 2—5 years and three, Keynsham, Street and Chard for children 0—5 years. Four Nurseries, Paulton, Wells and two at Bridgwater (St. John's and Rhode Lane) were transferred to the Education Committee and reconstituted as nursery schools as from 1st April, 1946.

ORTHOPÆDIC SCHEME.

The County Scheme, and the results of working during 1946, are described in considerable detail in my report for 1946 as School Medical Officer.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Except for minor extensions, mainly to new housing sites and agricultural premises, no major works were carried out during the year.

Owing to the wet summer very little shortage was experienced. The consumption of water increases and many authorities are finding that the capacity of their present storage reservoirs is inadequate. In one district such storage is only sufficient for a three hours' supply instead of the normal provision of from two to three days. Having sufficient reserve is of primary importance in preventing restriction of the supply in drougthy periods, yet for a considerable number of years notwithstanding all the water that runs to waste in the wet seasons of the year, many authorities have to limit their supplies through the lack of it. The requirements of the new houses being erected will make further demands on some supplies already strained.

Many more farmers are going over to the production of designated milk which means more and more water. It is impossible to produce clean milk without an adequate supply of wholesome water. The water used by a few milk producers and milk depots for cooling purposes is from rivers and other contaminated sources. It is perhaps needless to point out the danger of this practice. With plenty of potable piped water available there would be no excuse for using such water.

Langport and Wells rural districts still remain the worst-watered areas in the County, followed by Frome and Shepton Mallet rurals. It is to be hoped that the Langport scheme, prepared before the last World War, will soon be put into effect and a supply afforded to the eastern parishes of the district. Parishes in both Wells and Shepton Mallet rural districts are likely to benefit from these proposals. The Langport Council have been unfortunate in the way the War and other unforeseen obstructions have hindered progress. In the Wells area it has been the local authority's misfortune to find that the sources of supply they had in mind have not come up to expectations. Shepton Mallet rural were disappointed in the yield of a bore-hole sunk in the southern part of the district. Both Shepton Mallet and Frome rurals are interested in a joint scheme, which, if it matures, will provide a considerable amount of water for both districts.

A number of rural authorities have submitted schemes for the consideration of the County Council under the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act, 1944. It is anticipated that the remainder will do so in the ensuing year. Such schemes should be comprehensive in character and provide for future requirements so far as they can be estimated.

Appended are the details of works carried out during the year together with schemes under consideration by the various district authorities.

Urban Areas.

BRIDGWATER. Local extensions to meet housing requirements. No shortage. Future proposals include further extensions within the Borough at an estimated cost of £3,500.

BURNHAM. Sporadic shortages consequent upon shedding of load on electricity supply to pumps.

The existing reservoir holds less than a 3 hours' supply. Proposals put before Ministry of Health to increase storage to a 3 days' supply. These works are considered extremely urgent.

CHARD. No extensions and no shortage experienced during the year. Owing to increased consumption and present supplies only meeting present demands, consideration being given to supplementing the High Level supply.

CLEVEDON. Only local extensions for housing needs. Consideration being given to the linking up of isolated areas at an estimated cost of £3,700.

CREWKERNE. Extensions to meet the requirements of new houses. A shortage of water was experienced in July. The Ministry of Health held a Public Inquiry during the year consequent upon the Council's application to acquire the supply from the Crewkerne Water Company.

FROME. 3in. and 4in. branch extensions to serve a housing site for 56 houses.

GLASTONBURY. No shortage experienced during the year. New works considered by the Corporation were as follows:—

1. The relaying of the stoneware main from West Compton and the installation of a booster—Contract let.
2. Works to render the Edgarley Reservoir watertight—Works commenced.
3. Improvement to supply serving the Windmill Estate.
4. Permanent chlorination plant at Wellhouse springs—Contract let.

ILMINSTER. Improvements to the collecting system at the gathering grounds carried out. No serious shortage was felt.

MINEHEAD. No shortage was felt during the year neither were there any extensions of the supply. Works contemplated include the completion of the dam to the Nutscale reservoir and supply of sterilised water to Alcombe to replace existing doubtful supplies.

NORTON RADSTOCK. A 3in. extension was carried out to serve the Grovewood Housing Estate. Minor shortages of water were experienced during the year.

Tenders have been accepted amounting to £1,160 for improvements to the supply in the Writhlington area.

PORTISHEAD. The present water supply although bacteriologically good is extremely hard; support was given to the Portishead and District Water Co., at a Government Inquiry, to consider the provision of another supply.

SHEPTON MALLET. Extensions to supply housing estates in progress. A 5in. main was laid along the West Shepton Road; distance about 100 yards.

STREET. Bulk supply afforded to Walton - Wells R.D. Consideration being given to a supply to Meare, Wells R.D.

Existing water supply system including mains under review.

TAUNTON. No shortage experienced. The construction of Quants reservoir to be resumed when the labour position permits.

WATCHET. Shortage felt during summer months but not so badly as in previous years.

WELLINGTON. A trial bore-hole sunk at Pitt Farm, on a seven-day continuous test, yielded 10,000 gallons per hour and is to be used to augment supplies which are barely sufficient.

Consideration being given to extending the main supply to Exeter Road and Bagley districts.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Improvement to high level pump to increase delivery.

The relaying of the mains in the Milton area is being considered also a scheme for the acquisition of an additional supply involving construction of a new reservoir, filter house and delivery main.

YEOVIL. Scheme under consideration for augmenting the town supply by taking water that may be surplus to the needs of Yeovil R.D.C.

Rural Areas.

AXBRIDGE. Extensions of mains comprised the laying of 1,034 yards of 3in. pipe in the parishes of Winscombe, Wrington, Axbridge and Cheddar. 168 yards of ½in. and 310 yards of 1in. galvanised pipe were laid in the Yarborough, Banwell and Brent Knoll areas.

Other works under consideration, with the estimated cost, are as follows:—

	£
Dunyeatt Springs—Development:—Buildings, Plant	1,400
Cross Well—Electrification:—Buildings, Plant	1,500
Congresbury (Smallway)—Mains extension	700
Churchill (Duck Lane) „	220
Wick St. Lawrence (Ebdon) „	330
Burrington—Burrington Lane area and augmentation of North Marsh water supply	3,600
Bleadon and Hutton (High Level)—Mains extension	2,725
TOTAL	£10,475

BATHAVON. One small extension was carried out to the hamlet of Newtown, Carlingcott. This was from the Peasedown supply.

Works under consideration comprise the following:—

1. Supplementary supplies from the Anchor Springs at Combe Hay for the Peasedown St. John water scheme.
2. Extensions from the West Gloucester Water Company's mains to serve the villages of Corston and Newton St. Loc.
3. Extension of the Bath Corporation's main to the village of Charlecombe.
4. Extension from the main of the Combe Down Water Company to serve Claverton village.
5. Supply to the village of Queen Charlton from the West Gloucester Water Company's mains.
6. Extension of the Peasedown supply to Priston, Nailwell and Dunkerton village.
7. Extension of main to the hamlet of Wick Lane, Camerton.

BRIDGWATER. Substitution of 1,700 yards of 10in main for an old 8in. main to improve distribution.

Immediate proposals are to afford a main supply to the parish of Over Stowey.

Long-term proposals include the provision of a new high level reservoir and a new trunk main to serve the southern part of the district.

CHARD. Schemes under consideration, with the estimated cost, are as follows:—

	£
1. Extension from Winsham to Forton	3,500
2. Replacement of mains from Hare Lane to Stewley	12,000
3. Extension of Regional Scheme including additional borehole at Pole Rue and connection to the existing main at Pretwood	25,000
4. Extension to Buckland St. Mary	2,000
5. Extension to Crewkerne Water Company's main at Clapton	1,200
	<hr/>
	£43,700
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CLUTTON. Shortage during summer months on the Downside supply to eight parishes.

Scheme being considered for additional supplies from Bristol Waterworks Co.

DULVERTON. During the year the Dulverton - Brushford auxiliary reservoir was completed.

A scheme for an additional supply from Southill to augment the Dulverton - Brushford service was submitted to the Ministry of Health and approved in principle.

Schemes are under consideration for the following parishes:—

	Estimated cost. £
Brompton Regis	4,000
Dulverton and Brushford	6,000
Exford	6,000
Exton	2,000
	<hr/>
	£18,000
	<hr/>

FROME. Seasonal shortages were experienced in the western part of the district.

The following works are under consideration:—

	£
1. The provision of a well at Norton St. Philip and extension of main from Norton St. Philip to Terry Hill—Estimated cost	21,000
2. A Regional scheme for the western part of the district—Approx. estimated cost	100,000
	<hr/>
	£121,000
	<hr/>

LANGPORT. No shortage in the supply except where the flow is restricted through the carrying capacity of the main from Stembridge to Huish Episcopi boosting station.

A scheme to provide the eastern parishes with a main supply has been submitted to the Ministry of Health. The parishes within the scheme are Babecary, Barton St. David, Charlton Mackrell, Compton Dundon, High Ham, Keinton Mandeville and Pitney. The estimated cost is £261,512.

LONG ASHTON. Temporary pipe supplies laid on from springs and a borehole to the villages of Clapton-in-Gordano and Dundry to replace existing contaminated supplies. No shortage was experienced in the district during the year. Future proposals include the following given in the order of priority:—

Priority.		Estimated cost. £
1	<i>Yatton.</i> New borehole, pumping plant, extension of service reservoir and pumping station, to Council's Yatton Parochial Supply	12,400
1	<i>Easton-in-Gordano.</i> Extension of main by Portishead Water Co. to Haberfield	1,500
1	<i>Kenn.</i> Extension of main from R.D.C. Yatton supply towards Kenn Court Farm	1,157
1	<i>Kingston Seymour.</i> Extension of R.D.C. Yatton supply to Kingston Seymour village	5,040
1	<i>Backwell and Wraxall.</i> Extension of main by Bristol Waterworks Co. to Baekwell Common and Lodge Lane	2,060
2	<i>Winford.</i> Extension of main of R.D.C. Winford supply to Harpers Batch and Hanging Grove	2,100
3	<i>Dundry.</i> Provision of mains to Dundry for bulk supply from Bristol Waterworks Co.	7,000
4	<i>Nailsea.</i> Extension of main by Bristol Waterworks Co. to West End and The Grove	8,630
5	<i>Abbots Leigh.</i> Extension of main by Bristol Waterworks Co. to Blackmoor Road and Pill Road	1,960
6	<i>Barrow Gurney.</i> Extension of main by Bristol Waterworks Co. to Barrow Hill and district	7,370
7	<i>Clapton-in-Gordano.</i> Extension of main to village by Portishead Water Co.	7,000
8	<i>North Weston.</i> Provision of main supply by Portishead Water Co. to replace standpipe supply to Redcliffe Bay area	7,125
		<hr/> <hr/> £63,342 <hr/> <hr/>

SHEPTON MALLET. No extensions of any importance took place during the year. Certain improvements have been carried out to the distribution system, mainly works of overhaul. 1946 being unaffected by periods of serious drought, the water supply had not to be restricted as in previous years. The Council have under consideration the utilisation of two sources of supply known as Ashwick Grove and St. Dunstan's Well. Gaugings and other recordings are being made. It is hoped to provide a supply for the whole of the district including the western part of Frome Rural District.

TAUNTON. An improvement in the supply to the cottages at Athelney and Stoke St. Gregory parish was carried out. The only shortage experienced during the winter was due to the leakages caused in the mains by severe frost conditions. Consideration is being given to the provision of a cement concrete high level reservoir at Stoke St. Gregory to improve the pressure to the higher parts of the parish. Estimated cost £3,780.

The Taunton Corporation have been asked to prepare schemes to supply the parishes or portions thereof in the Corporation's statutory area of supply at present without a piped supply.

WELLINGTON. A scheme has been prepared by the Council's Engineers with a view to augmenting supplies at Milverton and Wiveliscombe. Parishes considered as coming within Priority I for a supply, are Oake and Sampford Arundel.

WELLS. An extension of the main from Street to Walton was carried through to supply some 26 houses. There was no serious shortage during the year owing to the wet season. Proposals under consideration are as follows:—

	Estimated cost. £
Main supplies to (1) Walton and Meare	30,912
(2) Rodney Stoke, Westbury, Easton, Wookey and Coxley	115,527
(3) Butleigh and Baltonsborough from the Langport R.D.C. main when available	36,561
TOTAL	£183,000

WILLITON. Consideration being given to improve the supply to the following parishes:—

	£
Cutcombe	10,000
Monksilver and Williton	30,000
TOTAL	£40,000

WINCANTON. Additional storage tanks of 7,500 gallons and 10,500 gallons capacity have been constructed at Charlton Musgrove to overcome shortages that have been experienced in the past year or two. Shortages were experienced in the following places:—Ansford, High Road, Galhampton, Woolston and Charlton Musgrove.

Work on the experimental borehole at Shepton Montague has proceeded and at the end of the year a depth of 230 feet had been reached without revealing a satisfactory supply of water. It is intended to continue boring until the lias formation has been reached. No decision on future proposals can be made until this operation has been concluded.

YEOVIL. The supply had to be restricted during the year owing to shortage of water. No new extensions were carried out. A comprehensive water supply scheme is in course of preparation, the new source of which will be an impounding reservoir fed by a stream at Sutton Bingham. This will involve the construction of two large service reservoirs and approximately 30 miles of pumping and trunk mains. It is anticipated that approximately a million gallons per day will be added to the existing supply. It will also enable the Council to close a number of small pumping stations. Surplus water will be available for adjoining authorities. Estimated cost £500,000.

RIVER POLLUTION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Owing to the national shortage of labour and materials the works carried out during the year mainly concerned the extension of sewers to new housing sites and maintenance. Many major schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal were under consideration by the various local authorities.

With the additional waste from the houses being erected, many purification plants will become overloaded. Pollution of the watercourses and possible nuisances may result unless these plants are extended or new works provided. In view of the nation's present resources, it is unlikely that permission will be granted yet awhile for any large scale works on sewerage and sewage disposal except those connected with development or of an urgent nature. More care will be necessary to make existing plants work as efficiently as possible so as to prevent undue pollution and nuisance.

Works carried out during the year and those proposed are as follows:—

Sewage Disposal.

Urban Areas.

CHARD. No extensions but a scheme in course of preparation for the reconstruction of the existing purification plant and additions to cope with the increased volume to be dealt with.

CLEVEDON. New sewer to Housing Site, West End. Cost £3,100. It is proposed to lay a new sewer for the housing site in Meadow Road at an estimated cost of £2,000.

CREWKERNE. New sewers constructed to deal with the drainage from the New Severalls Housing Estate. A scheme is in preparation for the reconstruction of the Eastern Outfall disposal works estimated to cost £24,500.

FROME. 6in. and 9in. sewers extended to deal with the drainage of new housing sites.

Scheme being prepared for reconstruction of existing disposal works.

GLASTONBURY. Work in progress respecting the laying of new sewers to meet housing development.

Consideration being given to proposals for the building of new sewage disposal works on a new site and the possibility of taking the effluents from two large factories in the neighbourhood. To prevent periodic flooding in Benedict Street the relaying of a section of the sewer is being considered.

KEYNSHAM. 3,723 yards of sewer extensions carried out to deal with sewage and surface water. Further proposals under consideration include the laying of 9in., 30in. and 33in. diameter sewers to take surface water from the housing site.

MINEHEAD. Consideration being given to the preparation of a scheme to prevent flooding in the town.

NORTON RADSTOCK. The sludge beds at Welton sewage disposal works were reconstructed at a cost of £300.

Future proposals include the linking up of the Thicket Mead area to the sewerage system at an estimated cost of £5,000.

PORTISHEAD. Sewers to meet housing needs only were laid. Electric pumps are being fitted to the Bristol Road pumping station.

SHEPTON MALLET. Sewers extended to deal with drainage from the Council Housing Estate adjoining Compton Road.

TAUNTON. Sewer extensions to new housing sites in progress.

WELLINGTON. Sewer extended at Blackdown Road to take the drainage of 24 houses and 12 flats.

Consideration being given to the enlargement of Mitchell's Pool sewage disposal works.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Sewer in Milton Road re-laid. New sewers provided to serve the housing estates.

Future proposals include Bleadon Hill sewerage and further extensions to housing sites.

YEOVIL. Conversion of existing contact beds into settlement tanks at the main sewage disposal works.

Proposals approved in principle for new Sewage Disposal Works on a new site at an estimated cost of approximately £140,000. The works to be capable of dealing with the drainage from a population of 32,000.

Rural Areas.

AXBRIDGE. Sewers were extended as follows.—457 yards 6 inches at Wrington; 467 yards 6 inches at Winscombe; 755 yards 6 inches at Cheddar.

Housing site treatment works were provided at Veale Housing Site, Bleadon; Orchard Housing Site, Axbridge.

Schemes under consideration concern the parishes of Congresbury and area, Axbridge, Wedmore and Bleadon.

BATHAVON. Extensions of the sewer have taken place to deal with the drainage from new housing sites at Combe Down, Batheaston and Whitchurch.

A scheme to provide sewerage for Peasedown St. John and district has been prepared. It is also proposed to prepare plans for the sewerage of Freshford.

BRIDGWATER. Proposals submitted and in preparation include the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal to the following parishes in order of priority:—

													Estimated cost. £
Cannington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,500
Chedzoy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,500
Nether Stowey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,200
													<hr/>
													£67,200
													<hr/>

A scheme covering the parishes of Huntspill (East and West), Puriton, Woolavington, Cossington and Bawdrip is in preparation. A proposal to take over the sewage works at Weston-zoyland and Middlezoy is being considered.

				Estimated cost. £
CHARD	To improve the sewerage and sewage disposal at Forton ...	...	...	3,000
	To improve the sewerage and sewage disposal at Donyatt ...	...	...	4,000
				<u>£7,000</u>

CLUTTON. Proposals submitted include the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal to the following parishes:—Chilecompton, Paulton, Farrington Gurney, Clutton and High Littleton.

DULVERTON. Schemes are under consideration for the provision of sewcrage and sewage disposal in the following parishes:—

													Estimated
													cost.
													<u>£</u>
Brompton Regis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000
Winsford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,000
Withypool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,000
													<u>£11,000</u>

LANGPORT. A proposal is under consideration to extend the sewers in the west end of Somerton at an estimated cost of £18,000.

LONG ASHTON. Proposals under consideration concern the following parishes. They are given in the order of priority:—

Priority.		Estimated cost.
		£
1	<i>Yatton.</i> Extension of sewer to main road and Plunder Street, Cleeve ...	5,000
1	<i>Yatton.</i> Provision of new pumping plant and rising main at Yatton Sewage Pumping Station	6,500
2	<i>Weston-in-Gordano.</i> Sewerage and sewage disposal to village ...	5,000
3	<i>Nailsea.</i> Sewerage and sewage disposal to Nailsea and district ...	20,000
	The proposals here depend upon the development of Nailsea as a possible dormitory town to Bristol, when the estimated cost of a comprehensive scheme may be in the region of	100,000
4	<i>North Weston.</i> Sewerage and sewage disposal to Redcliffe Bay area ...	8,000
5	<i>Easton-in-Gordano.</i> Sewerage and sewage disposal to village ...	6,000

SHEPTON MALLET. No instructions or works of improvement were carried out during the year, but proposals are being considered concerning the following parishes, the estimated cost given being based on 1939 prices:—

[illegible]

TAUNTON. A Public Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health in December, 1946, to consider a small scheme to abate a Public Health nuisance in the village of Corfe.

Proposals under consideration respecting sewerage and sewage disposal for other parishes in the district.

WELLINGTON. Schemes have been prepared by the Council's engineers respecting—

1. Existing works needing alteration or enlargement.
2. Districts needing comprehensive schemes.
3. Small schemes for certain areas.

The following parishes have been placed in Priority I for sewerage and sewage disposal:—

Wiveliscombe,
Wiveliscombe Without,
Bradford-on-Tone.

WELLS. Parishes considered to be in Priority I group for sewerage and sewage disposal and which are receiving the consideration of the Local Authority, are as follows. The prices given are those prevailing in 1944:—

											Estimated cost. £
Rodney Stoke	...	...	...	...	}		
Draycott	...	...	...	...			
Westbury	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	53,104
Easton	...	...	...	...			
Baltonsborough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,613
Walton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,398

WILLITON. Proposals for the sewerage of Stogursey were considered 22,000

WINCANTON. Short sewer extensions were carried out at Holton and Templecombe.

Defective sewers have been made good at North Street and Whitehall, Wineanton. The following schemes are included in Priority I group:—

Wincanton—new sewage disposal works.

Milborne Port—infiltration and improvement of works.

Templecombe—sewerage and sewage disposal.

Henstridge—improvement to sewage disposal.

Holton—sewerage and sewage disposal.

North Cheriton—Sewerage and sewage disposal.

Penselwood—improvement to sewage disposal works.

Pitcombe—extension.

Bayford—connection to Wineanton sewers.

Sparkford—improvements to sewage disposal works.

Work on the Wincanton sewage disposal works is in progress. The revised estimate for the cost of the above schemes is £70,000.

YEovil. The following works considered to be in Priority Group I have been given consideration:—

										Estimated cost. £
<i>Mudford</i> —sewerage and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,000
<i>East Coker</i>	}	do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,000
<i>West Coker</i>			...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Martock</i> —new disposal works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,000
<i>Stoke-under-Ham</i> —improvement of disposal works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,000
<i>Haselbury Plucknett</i> —to sewer Puddletown and provide new disposal works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,000
<i>Ilchester</i> —sewerage and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,500
<i>Chilthorne Domer</i> —sewcrage and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,500

RIVER POLLUTION.

With no major alteration to existing disposal plants, and the fact that many were having to deal with more sewage, extra vigilance and supervision were found necessary. Close contact has been kept with the Somerset Rivers Catchment Board and the Angling Associations. A number of disposal works owned by local authorities were found to be lacking supervision and the effluents from them were found to be unsatisfactory; lack of available labour was said to be the reason. Apart from the routine examination of sewage disposal works and the sampling of effluents, industrial plants have also been under constant inspection. The position is sometimes very difficult, with factory staff increasing and the inability of the management to carry out improvements to their disposal works owing to the lack or delay of obtaining the necessary materials. During the year a comprehensive survey was carried out of the River Frome. This covered that part of the river within the boundaries of the Frome Urban District. Valuable information was obtained and recorded. It is hoped to carry out similar surveys on other main rivers when time will allow.

Comparatively few complaints were received during the year, the chief of these and the main rivers affected are as follows:—

RIVER FROME. A loss of fish life was reported several days after they had been found dead. On investigation there was no direct evidence to indicate the cause although several outlets to the river created suspicion. Following a thorough survey, several firms were approached together with the local authority. The action taken has resulted in certain direct outlets to the river being cut off. Work on other improvements considered necessary is under consideration.

RIVER BRUE. Complaints were received concerning the condition of the mill stream at Glastonbury which feeds cattle watering places in the adjoining fields on its way to the River Brue. This stream receives the waste from two large factories and is never satisfactory. Minor improvements were carried out and the pollution reduced as far as it was possible. Both firms are negotiating with the local authority for the waste from the two factories to be discharged into the town's sewers.

RIVER AXE. This river is slowly recovering from the heavy pollution it received during the war. The paper mill concerned has carried out works of improvement to the purification plant dealing with its waste but considerable further works are necessary before the position can be considered satisfactory.

RIVER YEO. This river is badly affected by the effluent discharged into it from the Yeovil Borough Council's sewage disposal works. The plant is worn out and overloaded. Plans have been prepared for entirely new works, and meanwhile, improvements have been carried out to increase the efficiency of the existing purification system.

RIVER CALE. This river is badly polluted by the effluent from the disposal works at Wincanton so derelict as to be beyond reconstruction. It is further heavily polluted by the effluent from Templecombe. Schemes have been prepared for both these places. New disposal works are urgently necessary.

RIVER TONE. A complaint was received concerning pollution of a tributary of the River Tone at Ham. This was traced back to the Wellington Urban Council's sewage disposal works at Mitchells Pool. The authority immediately carried out works of improvement and cleaned out the fouled watercourse for a considerable length.

RIVER SHEPPEY. Following a complaint that the river was being polluted between Shepton Mallet and Croscombe, an investigation was immediately made. It was found to be intermittent and coming from the Shepton Mallet U.D.C.'s sewage disposal works. Steps to reduce this were undertaken and a scheme for reconstruction of the works is being considered.

HOUSING.

The year ended with the housing situation remaining acute, and, in fact, with the demobilisation of more men from the Forces, the position was slightly worse than at the fall of 1945. The anticipated erection of many new houses did not materialise due to a shortage of labour and the scarcity of many building materials. The situation is congested and difficult. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 new houses are required in the County to meet the demand for new houses, replacement of those unfit for human habitation, and to abate overcrowding.

Applicants for new homes number over 20,000. It is known that a proportion of these will have their names on the lists of several authorities in their keen desire to have a home of their own. In one town half the applicants are married and living with relations.

There are over 10,000 unfit houses in the County, and, unfortunately, nearly all these are occupied, many of them under licence. Whilst these houses afford shelter to the occupiers, the possible damage to the health of the inmates, particularly the small children, should not be underestimated. Many of these houses are shockingly damp and even huts that are dry would be much better. Dampness is health enemy number one and I would recommend local authorities to pay particular attention to the cases where there is rising dampness. To find all these people new dry homes is going to take a long time and where temporary works can be carried out even in houses that have been condemned as unfit the expense will be justified.

Overcrowding is rife; in one town alone 400 cases are reported; these represent one quarter of the applicants for new houses. Many cases were abated during the year, the majority through the use of accommodation at disused Forces' camps. Many pathetic letters have been received requesting help in obtaining more suitable houses, but local authorities find the solving of such problems extremely difficult.

New houses erected and occupied during the year totalled 1,345 (see Table XII). 889 of these were provided by local authorities, including 604 temporary dwellings of the prefabricated bungalow type and 456 by private enterprise. Houses in course of erection numbered 2,512; of these 2,248 are being built by local authorities, including 43 of the temporary type, and 264 by private enterprise. Several authorities have converted a number of large requisitioned houses into flats. One rural district carried out conversions on a camp site providing for 63 temporary homes at a cost of £259 each. These are let at 8/6d. per week exclusive of rates. Conversions are proceeding to provide for a total of 130 families.

The housing programmes of the various local authorities for 1947 are set out in Table XII. The target for 1946 was 3,848 houses; about one-third of this number were completed including those built by private enterprise. It is unlikely that all those houses proposed for 1947 will be erected owing to the prevailing shortage of labour and materials.

The Rural Housing Survey has proceeded and Table XIII gives the position at the end of the year. From the total of column I must be deducted a considerable number of houses owned by local authorities which will not come within the survey, also those houses built since 1930, which, in order to quicken the inspections, the Somerset Rural Housing Committee thought could be omitted for the time being. As a result of these deductions, it can be said that about one half of the total survey has been completed. The percentage figures under the various categories whilst giving a picture of the districts to December, 1946, must not be taken as an indication of the relative differences between them.

The reason for this is that the survey is being carried out in different ways, such as

Parish by parish	...	...	...	...	...	5 authorities.
Worst properties	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Worst properties first then parish by parish	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
All under £10 R.V. first	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
With other work in any parish	...	...	...	...	...	5 „

One authority dealt with about one-third of its district by "Clearance Areas" in 1938-39.

It is most unfortunate that to a great extent the survey is being nullified by the shortage of labour and materials. Such restrictions prevent the inspections being followed up, and, in the meantime, a house originally placed in category III for repairs or structural alterations, may later through the enforced lack of attention be placed in the "unfit" category. Of those houses placed in categories II, III, and V totalling 15,502, only 108 were officially recorded as repaired and made fit during the year. Out of the 12,572 houses placed in categories III and V 1,248 are considered suitable for grants as were available under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926-1942; approximately one-tenth. Quite a number of these houses are owner occupied, many by people of humble means doing rural work. It would be a pity if through lack of financial assistance these houses have to be condemned as being beyond repair at a reasonable cost. Whilst bad housing conditions should not be tolerated, there are cases of hardship where special consideration should be given, and this is particularly true in the case of aged occupants.

The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1946, came into operation on the 18th April. The main purpose of the Act is to provide for Exchequer subsidies and rate contributions sufficient to enable local authorities to let at reasonable rents the houses they are now building. Financial assistance, however, will be payable on all houses completed by 30th June, 1945.

The standard Exchequer subsidy for each house or flat, pending the Minister's review, is £16 10s. 0d. per annum for sixty years with a standard rate contribution by the local authority of £5 10s. 0d. for the same period, making a total yearly subsidy of £22 0s. 0d.

For houses built for the agricultural population the Government subsidy is increased to £25 10s. 0d. per annum for sixty years, and the corresponding rate contribution by the local authority is reduced to £1 10s. 0d. The County Council, however, make an annual contribution of £1 10s. 0d. per annum for such houses, making a total yearly subsidy per house of £28 10s. 0d. On houses built by private enterprise for the agricultural population the Exchequer contribution is raised from £10 to £15 per annum for 40 years.

TABLE XII.

Local Authority.	I		II		III	IV					
	Houses erected by		Houses in course of erection by		Applications for houses.	New Housing Programme (yearly).					
	L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.		1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
URBAN AREAS.											
Bridgwater ...		40	23	224	14	1,146	—	—	—	—	—
Burnham-on-Sea		30	16	90	35	450	120	2	—	—	—
Chard ...		—	8	12	4	—	12	50	65	80	80
Clevedon ...	20T	—	11	12	7	289	99	—	—	—	—
Crewkerne ...		—	1	22	—	—	50	20	60	60	60
Frome ...		—	2	37	14	550	37	50	85	150	150
Glastonbury ...		2	7	—	5	220	80	—	—	—	—
Ilminster ...		—	6	20	—	—	20	50	—	—	—
Keynsham ...	20T	20	14	44	12	645	96	92	150	—	—
Minehead ...		4	6	55	8	230	33	57	53	16	20
Norton Radstock		—	16	48	2	540	48	82	—	—	—
Portishead ...	20T	11	2	29	—	—	20	20	20	50	50
Shepton Mallet		—	—	40	—	363	40	40	40	40	—
Street ...		—	—	8	2	180	—	—	—	—	—
Taunton ...	125T	—	3	482	4	2,346	350	250	350	—	—
Watchet ...		—	5	16	—	200	20	6	—	—	—
Wellington ...		14	3	30	1	—	58	—	—	—	—
Wells ...	25T	6	1	50	1	336	62	—	—	—	—
Weston-s.-Mare	141T	—	32	43T 154	11	3,150	354	194	—	—	—
Yeovil ...	150T	—	32	69	18	1,605	69	140	—	—	—
Totals ...	501T 127		188	43T 1,442	138	12,250	1,568				
RURAL AREAS.											
Axbridge ...		30	21	112	21	734	100	100	—	—	—
Bathavon ...		—	46	123	22	1,148	250	—	—	—	—
Bridgwater ...		12	25	40	13	895	50	—	—	—	—
Chard ...		10	12	30	5	500	30	54	100	100	100
Clutton ...		—	13	14	11	850	50	—	—	—	—
Dulverton ...		—	—	38	2	90	—	—	—	—	—
Frome ...		—	8	46	6	410	36	—	—	—	—
Langport ...		10	—	6	3	485	68	—	—	—	—
Long Ashton ...	63T	30	64	82	—	800	160	214	84	—	—
Shepton Mallet		—	7	18	4	282	24	—	—	—	—
Taunton ...		2	12	14	—	—	41	41	—	—	—
Wellington ...		8	6	58	3	317	—	—	—	—	—
Wells ...		18	16	22	9	216	120	87	—	—	—
Williton ...		—	6	28	8	—	34	20	—	—	—
Wincanton ...		8	5	84	8	630	54	—	—	—	—
Yeovil ...	40T	30	27	48	11	1,063	120	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	103T 158		268	763	126	8,420	1,137				
Combined Totals ...	604T 285		456	43T 2,205	264	20,670	2,705				

“T” means Temporary. The remaining houses are of Permanent construction.

TABLE XIII.

**PROGRESSIVE HOUSING STATEMENT showing the progress of the RURAL HOUSING SURVEY
to 31st December, 1946.**

CATEGORIES:—

- I. Satisfactory in all respects.
 II. Minor defects.
 III. Repairs or structural alterations.
 IV. Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
 IVA. Suitable for acquisition.
 V. Unfit.

Local Authority	Number of Houses in District.			Inspected.		C A T E G O R I E S .																Over-crowding.	
	£16 R.V. or under.	Over £16 R.V.	% of Col. 1 of Total Houses.	Number.	% of Col. 1.	I.				II.		III.		IV.		IV.A.		V.		Number.	Abated.		
						Standards.		Number.	% on Col. 4.	Number.	% on Col. 4.	Number.	% on Col. 4.	Number.	% on Col. 4.	Number.	% on Col. 4.						
						District.	County.																
																		% on Col. 4.	% on Col. 4.				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)			
Axbridge	4,465	1,995	69.1	1,199	26.9	89	7.4	29	2.4	264	22.0	740	61.7	69	5.8	—	—	106	8.1	20	—		
Bathavon	4,330	1,636	72.6	1,511	34.9	59	3.9	7	0.4	247	16.3	1,078	71.3	—	—	8	0.5	127	8.4	9	2		
Bridgwater	4,615	855	84.3	1,847	39.5	3	0.1	3	0.1	161	8.7	1,077	58.3	173	9.3	—	—	606	32.8	18	11		
Chard	3,110	307	91.0	154	5.0	12	7.7	6	3.8	25	16.2	66	43.0	—	—	—	—	51	33.1	—	—		
Clutton	4,399	434	91.0	1,325	30.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	22.3	27	20.3	—	—	1,029	77.7	—	—		
Dulverton	1,184	189	86.2	548	48.8	266	48.5	—	—	123	22.4	145	26.5	—	—	—	—	14	2.5	12	—		
Frome	2,691	333	88.9	2,601	97.0	339	13.0	161	6.0	680	26.0	775	30.0	362	14.0	—	—	807	31.0	—	—		
Langport	3,298	452	87.9	985	29.8	9	0.9	7	0.7	39	3.9	333	33.5	282	28.6	—	—	604	61.4	2	—		
Long Ashton	3,696	2,458	60.0	1,759	47.0	480	27.0	74	4.0	264	15.0	768	43.0	26	1.0	433	24.0	247	14.0	95	—		
Shepton Mallet.	2,588	480	84.3	1,018	39.3	84	8.2	4	0.4	136	13.3	528	51.8	86	8.4	1	0.1	270	26.5	4	1		
Taunton	4,337	552	88.7	1,101	25.0	61	5.0	41	4.0	500	45.0	188	17.0	—	—	—	—	352	32.0	—	—		
Wellington	1,830	313	85.4	247	13.5	—	—	—	—	9	3.6	64	26.0	91	36.8	—	—	174	70.4	5	1		
Wells	2,043	395	83.8	2,438	—	1277	52.3	266	10.9	206	8.4	435	21.9	—	—	—	—	421	17.2	—	—		
Williton	3,019	768	79.7	284	9.4	64	22.5	17	6.0	48	17.0	117	41.2	16	5.6	—	—	55	19.3	10	—		
Wincanton	3,428	1,489	69.7	628	18.3	16	2.5	—	—	71	11.3	29	4.6	81	13.0	25	4.0	512	81.5	—	—		
Yeovil	4,965	705	87.5	886	17.8	270	30.5	236	26.6	157	17.7	291	32.8	35	4.0	—	—	168	19.0	13	—		
	53,998	13,361		18,531		3029		851		2,930		7,029		1,248		467		5,543		188	15		

SUPERVISION OVER THE FOOD SUPPLY.

A. Slaughter Houses and Meat Supervision.

The Ministry of Food still control the slaughter houses in the County of which there are ten. These are situated in the Chard, Crewkerne, Frome, Minehead, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil areas. Inspection of meat is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors of these authorities.

Prior to the Ministry of Food taking over control of slaughtering, the number of slaughter-houses in the County was as follows:—

Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
Registered (prior to Oct. 1st, 1939)	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Public Abattoirs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knackers' yards (prior to Oct. 1st, 1939)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

TUBERCULOSIS IN CALVES.

Where calves born inside the County but slaughtered outside are found to be suffering from tuberculosis an arrangement is in being whereby the County Sanitary Inspector is notified. As a result of this, the information is passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with a view to investigations being carried out.

The following is a summary of the action taken during the year:—

Notifications received	...	...	...	...	58	
Calves involved	...	...	...	...	62	
Bulls	„	1	
					<hr/>	63

Results of Investigations:—

Number of mothers found healthy				12
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Number of Cows slaughtered:—

(a) Showing advanced tuberculosis			25	
(b) „ non-advanced „			19	
					<hr/>	44
Number unable to trace	...	...	...			6

In the case of the Bull notified, the herd which it served was examined and found to be free from disease ...

1

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TABLE XIV.
SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

Local Authority.	I.		II.	III.			IV.
	Slaughter Houses.		Public Abattoir.	In use under Ministry of Food.			Knackers' Yards.
	Licensed.	Registered.		Slaughter House.	Abattoir.	Bacon Factories.	
Urban Areas.							
Bridgwater ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burnham ...	6	1	—	—	—	—	1
Chard ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Clevedon ...	—	3	—	3*	—	—	—
Crewkerne ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Frome ...	3	3	—	1	—	—	—
Glastonbury ...	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Ilminster ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Keynsham ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Minehead ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Norton Radstock	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Portishead ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet..	3	1	—	—	—	1	—
Street ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Taunton ...	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Watchet ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellington ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wells ...	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
Weston-s.-Mare.	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Yeovil ...	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	54	34	2	9	2	2	1
Rural Areas.							
Axbridge ...	13	7	—	—	—	—	—
Bathavon ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bridgwater ...	—	12	—	—	—	—	1
Chard ...	11	15	—	—	—	—	—
Clutton ...	6	11	—	—	—	—	—
Dulverton ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Frome ...	8	2	—	—	—	—	1
Langport ...	9	2	—	—	—	—	1
Long Ashton ...	2	9	—	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet..	3	—	—	1	—	—	1
Taunton ...	36	—	—	1	—	—	1
Wellington ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wells ...	8	3	—	—	—	—	1
Williton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wincanton ...	2	14	—	—	—	—	3
Yeovil ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	136	77	—	2	—	—	10
Combined Totals ...	190	111	2	11	2	2	11

*In use only as meat storage and distributing centres.

TABLE XV.

(b) **Milk Supply.** The table below gives particulars of the number of Registered Producers and Retailers, also the Pasteurising and Heat Treatment plants in the respective districts:—

Local Authority.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.
	Registered Dairy Farms.	Retailers.	Producer-Retailers included in Col. II.	Licensed Pasteurising Plants.	Heat Treatment Plants not included in Col. IV.
Urban Areas.					
Bridgwater ...	16	44	31	1	—
Burnham ...	21	17	7	—	1
Chard ...	7	6	6	—	—
Clevedon ...	24	25	14	—	1
Crewkerne ...	10	6	2	—	—
Frome ...	10	12	3	1	1
Glastonbury ...	51	9	5	—	—
Ilminster ...	8	8	5	1	—
Keynsham ...	22	7	4	1	—
Minehead ...	5	6	2	1	—
Norton Radstock	39	18	16	—	1
Portishead ...	8	6	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet..	21	7	2	1	—
Street ...	16	11	8	—	—
Taunton ...	5	23	3	3	—
Watchet ...	4	7	2	—	—
Wellington ...	16	9	14	2	—
Wells ...	7	7	2	1	—
Weston-s.-Mare.	24	45	14	—	—
Yeovil ...	13	21	9	2	—
Totals ...	327	289	149	14	4
Rural Areas.					
Axbridge ...	893	104	76	—	1
Bathavon ...	265	78	59	—	—
Bridgwater ...	811	155	138	—	1
Chard ...	547	2	58	—	1
Clutton ...	414	86	6	1	1
Dulverton ...	143	143	143	—	—
Frome ...	393	113	110	—	1
Langport ...	472	75	71	1	—
Long Ashton ...	348	83	60	—	—
Shepton Mallet..	392	61	3	—	1
Taunton ...	402	47	35	—	—
Wellington ...	202	88	3	—	—
Wells ...	452	118	107	—	—
Williton ...	336	98	95	—	—
Wincanton ...	579	39	36	1	4
Yeovil ...	422	134	125	—	—
Totals ...	7,071	1,424	1,125	3	10
Combined Totals ...	7,398	1,713	1,274	17	14

With regard to Heat Treatment plants, those shown in Col. V have been authorised by the Ministry of Food. At the request of the Ministry samples are taken fortnightly by the County Sanitary Officer's staff and submitted for examination to the County Public Health Laboratory.

Designated Milk (raw).

From the figures appended it will be observed that the steady increase of designated producers continues. There is a gain of 142 over 1945. An excellent feature is the large increase of licensees producing "Tuberculin Tested" milk, viz., 143 during the year:—

Year (at end of).	T.T.	Accredited.	Total.
1936	126	285	411
1937	159	506	665
1938	264	623	887
1939	320	800	1,120
1940	305	849	1,154
1941	275	817	1,092
1942	297	871	1,168
1943	357	840	1,197
1944	502	705	1,207
1945	596	758	1,354
1946	739	757	1,496

Transfers:—

From "Accredited" to "T.T."	...	...	...	71
From "T.T." to "Accredited"	...	...	...	1

Number of licences cancelled or relinquished:—

"Tuberculin Tested" ...	...	...	...	21
(1 of these reverted to "Accredited")				
"Accredited" ...	...	...	...	91
(71 of these transferred to "T.T.")				

Licences suspended:—

"Tuberculin Tested"	12
"Accredited"	23

Licences revoked:—

"Tuberculin Tested"	2
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Licences reinstated:—

"Tuberculin Tested"	9
"Accredited"	11

Routine inspection of premises has been maintained and numerous advisory visits paid. Many of the latter are requests but where two consecutive samples fail visits are automatically made. These whenever possible are made during the hours of milking, when weaknesses in processing and in the washing up and sterilising of utensils and plant afterwards can be detected. It is unfortunate that the value of effective sterilisation and what it means to the keeping quality of milk is not fully appreciated. Too often are reports received from the advisory staff containing the words "only sterilising once a day" or "three times a week". Through neglecting this most important factor, many samples fail and such licensees who take such risks have only themselves to blame should their licences be suspended. A few producers do not cool their milk; here again it must be pointed out that any milk souring organisms will grow rapidly under such ideal conditions and cause the milk to go off very quickly.

There is need for a quicker pick up from the farm and delivery to the milk depot. In many cases milk is cooled and put on an unshady stand near the highway where it stays for several hours before collection. In the summer months the cooled milk soon rises to atmospheric temperature and before it reaches the factory, which may be after 3 p.m., its keeping quality is adversely affected.

In co-operation with the local authorities, churn and milk container sterility tests have been carried out during the year at the main milk depots in the County. The results of these tests leave one far from satisfied, and indicate that more care and supervision is needed respecting the washing of the churns whether by machine or by hand. These tests and follow up advisory work will be continued.

Four Sampling Officers were appointed during the year and commenced their duties on the 1st July. After a short period of training, they have carried out their work consistently well. These appointments have permitted of more direct control over sampling and more uniformity in sampling practice.

Miss Maddever, County Dairying Superintendent and Miss Phillips her Assistant, were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 1st October. Whereas prior to their transfer half of their time was spent assisting the Ministry through the County War Agricultural Executive Committee, the arrangement is now in the reverse order. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking them for their hard and thorough work in assisting my department so earnestly, and trust they will be permitted to carry on until the transfer of duties from the County Council takes place.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY PUBLIC ANALYST.

The work consisted of an examination of samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Statutory Rules and Orders of the Ministries of Health and Food, and the Public Health Acts. In addition chemical analyses of water, sewage and effluents, and other special analytical work has been undertaken.

The Statutory Rules and Orders made by the Minister of Food have been very numerous during the past few years and standards have been fixed for many foodstuffs. It follows that there has been an increase in the amount of analytical work to be carried out on individual samples. The Labelling of Food Order (No. 2) which came into force in the latter part of 1945 relates to the sale or display by retail of any pre-packed foods, and requires that the label shall state, among other things, the appropriate designation of the ingredient (if only one) or the usual name of the food and the appropriate designation of each ingredient and unless the quantity or proportion of each ingredient is specified, the ingredients should be in the order of the proportion in which they were used, the ingredient used in the greatest proportion (by weight) being specified first. Amendments to this Order bring intoxicating liquors sold in bottles within its purview, and in the case of liquors made wholly or in part from fruit or fruits, the label must state the facts, naming the fruit or fruits and the minimum alcohol content. This will probably help to prevent the sale of the cheap fruit wines which are low in alcoholic strength.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, etc.

The total number of samples submitted for analysis under the above Acts and Orders was 1,182, of which 41, or 3.5 per cent., were adulterated or incorrect compared with 5.8 per cent. in the previous year. Apart from 2 samples received from private individuals, they were all submitted by the Inspectors, including 18 "Appeal to Cow" samples of milk.

Nature of samples submitted by Inspectors.

	Number Examined.	Number Incorrect.	Percentage Incorrect.
Milk	520	21	4.0
Condensed and Evaporated Milks ...	13	—	—
Dried Milk	6	—	—
Cheese	8	—	—
Butter	81	4	4.9
Margarine	21	—	—
Other Edible Fats	31	—	—
Cereals	17	—	—
Baking and Golden Raising Powders ...	11	—	—
Sausages	27	4	14.8
Other Meat and Fish Products	32	—	—
Extracts—Meat, Vegetable and Malt ...	6	—	—
Tea, Coffee and Cocoa	41	—	—
Condiments	12	2	16.7
Pickles and Sauces	15	—	—
Vinegars	22	—	—
Jam, Marmalade, etc.	37	—	—
Gelatine	6	1	16.7
Canned Products (Peas, Beans, Soup, etc.)	21	—	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	68	3	4.4
Soft Drinks	9	3	33.3
Non-alcoholic Wines	9	—	—
Sweetened Mineral Water	4	—	—
Beer, Cider and Spirits	72	—	—
Drugs	91	3	3.3
Disinfectants	2	—	—
	1,182	41	3.5

Details of the samples returned as incorrect are given in the following tables:—

A. Milk Samples.

No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.	No.	Added water or fat deficiency.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
6306	5% Water	To be re-sampled.	6557	11.5% Fat ...	Cautioned.
6307	4% Water & 11% Fat	do.	6620	16.5% Fat ...	do.
6309	18% Fat	do.	6688	13% Fat ...	do.
6345	14% Water	Fined £5 5s. 0d.; Costs £2 12s. 0d.	6723	5.5% Water ...	Dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of Costs £5 5s.
6356	3.5% Water	Vendor was not Producer. Samples from both at future date.	6724	3.5% Water ...	
			6725	1% Water ...	
6383	4.5% Water and ... 5.5% Fat	To be re-sampled.	6735	10% Fat ...	To be re-sampled.
6384	2% Water	do.	7119	10% Fat ...	Dismissed.
6385	2% Water	do.	7144	13% Fat ... (Private)	Official sample from re- tailer genuine.
6386	14.5% Water	Fined £10 10s. 0d.; Costs £2 12s. 0d.	7145	7.5% Water ...	Fined £5; Costs £5 18s. 0d.
6504	10% Fat	To be re-sampled.	7408	11% Water ...	Dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of Costs £5 5s.

No. 6309. A sample was taken on delivery to the retailer and was found to have a fat content of only 2.97 per cent. The farmer milked by machine and the strippings were not mixed with the bulk of the milk. He agreed to correct this procedure.

No. 6383, 6384 and 6385 were samples of milk delivered to a factory. Factory informed that further samples would be taken at a future date.

No. 6504. Driver of lorry did not know at which of two sources the milk sampled had been produced.

No. 6620. Another sample from the same producer taken at the same time contained 4.3 per cent of fat. On a previous occasion a sample with a low fat content had been sold by this producer and the "appeal to cow" also had a low fat content. The farmer was cautioned that probably this was due to the fact that the intervals between milkings differed by too much.

No. 6688. Two "appeal to cow" samples were taken, Nos. 6718 and 6719. The former was produced under as near as possible the same conditions as the original sample and contained 2.8 per cent. of fat, whereas the bulked milk contained 3.2 per cent. of fat. A dairyman buys the bulk of this producer's milk and the latter milks the necessary number of cows to give this quantity and keeps the remainder, which was from 2 or 3 cows in this case. There did not appear to be any opportunity for the abstraction of fat. Cautioned, and suggested that the milk should be bulked before taking a portion for the dairyman.

No. 7408. By comparison of the freezing points of this sample and those of three "appeal to cow" samples, the original sample was shown to contain 20 to 22.5 per cent. of added water. There was a doubt raised as to whether this was a sample of the producer's own milk or was some that he bought from a factory. The charge was found to be proven and while it was probable that the sample was from the factory milk, it was by no means certain. It was suggested that the milk bottles should be marked so that there would be no mistake in future.

Average Composition of Milk Samples.

Year.	Total Solids.	Fat.	Solids-not-fat.
1945	12.45	3.67	8.78
1946	12.67	3.77	8.90

B. Other Adulterated Samples.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
6454	Butter	0.04% Boric Acid	Fined £95, Costs £9 9s. 0d.
6456	do.	0.06% do.	
6457	do.	0.05% do.	
6522	Pork Sausages	18% Deficient of Meat	Cautioned.
7045	Beef Sausages	32% do.	Fined £6, Costs £4.
7097	do.	41% do.	Fined £5 5s. 0d., Costs £5 5s. 0d.

No.	Description.	Nature of Offence.	Action taken and results of legal proceedings.
7125	Home-made Lemonade ...	{ 96.5% Deficient of Sugar ... 50.5% Deficient of Saccharin ...	Cautioned.
7208	Orange Essence Flavouring ...	Label incorrect ... (No name, address or volume stated)	do.
7223	Ground Nutmeg ..	Label incorrect ... (No weight declared)	do.
7257	Ginger Wine Essence ...	Label incorrect ... (No volume declared)	do.
7265	Lime Juice Cordial ...	46.5% Deficient of Sugar ...	do.
7270	Butter ...	Consists of Margarine ...	do.
7289	Beef Sausage Meat ...	24% Deficient of Meat ...	Fined £1, Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.
7319	Ground Ginger ...	Label incorrect ... (No name, address or weight declared)	Cautioned.
7355	Ginger Cordial ...	{ 23.3% Deficient of Citric Acid ... 6.6% Deficient of Sugar ...	Reported to the Ministry of Food.
7359	Ginger Wine Essence ...	Label incorrect ... (No volume declared)	Cautioned.
7391	Gelatine Powder ...	250 parts of Zinc per million ...	do.
7402	Health and Liver Salts ...	Label incorrect ...	Reported to Manufacturers.
7403	Chlorophyll Compound Tablets..	do. ...	Reported to Pharmaceutical Society.
7424	Neuro Phosphates ...	do. ...	do.

Nos. 6454, 6456 and 6457. The offence would appear to be almost trivial, but taken in conjunction with the fact that margarine was found in the vendor's butter factory, the indications were that the boric acid had found its way into the butter by the addition of margarine. The Reichert values were within the range for genuine butter but the Polenske values were high and the Kirschner values indicated about 80 per cent. of butter, which is in agreement with the small amount of boric acid found. The Vendor was prosecuted in two courts, in the one for the sale of butter containing boric acid and in the other for having margarine in his factory. In the first case he was fined £70 and costs £6 6s. 0d. and in the second he was fined £25 and costs £3 3s. 0d.

No. 7045. Legal proceedings for deficiency of meat content of sausages are taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The defending Solicitor argued that the purchaser had not been prejudiced as there was no standard fixed under this Act, but the prosecution held that the standard fixed by the Meat Products, Canned Soup and Canned Meat (Control & Maximum Prices) Order, 1946, was a guide to the magistrates in arriving at a decision as to the amount of meat which should be present in sausages. The bench held that the prosecution was correct.

No. 7125. Home-made Lemonade. Complaints against the retailer were received. It appears that she diluted concentrated soft drinks and sold them in S.D.I. bottles. The vendor was cautioned and samples will be taken at a future date. As the sale took place prior to 21.10.46 the previous Order No. 838, 1943, was taken as the standard instead of Order No. 945, 1946.

No. 7289. Beef Sausage Meat. The defence stated that the mixing machine had been out of action for some months awaiting repairs, so that the ingredients of the sausage meat had to be mixed by hand after the meat had been put through a mincer. This, in my opinion, would hardly account for a deficiency of 24 per cent. of meat, and there appears to be no reason why the whole mix could not have been passed through the mincer used for the meat.

No. 7355. Ginger Cordial. The manufacturers stated that there was a shortage of citric acid and rather than cut production of the article the percentage of citric acid was reduced. The wholesalers of citric acid stated that they were unable to deliver immediately. The correspondence was sent to the Ministry of Food for their observations, and their reply stated: "A serious view is taken of the practice of decreasing the amount of citric acid present in preference to reducing the output. Enquiries will be made and any necessary action taken depending on the results of these enquiries."

No. 7402. Health and Liver Salts. The tin container bore the words "Double Strength" which had no meaning as applied to this article, the formula of which was given. The manufacturers agreed that this was so, but stated that the dose suggested for this pack was half that for a former pack which contained sugar as well as the other ingredients. The manufacturers submitted a proof of the label for a new pack which was satisfactory.

No. 7403. Chlorophyll Compound Tablets. In my opinion this article is recommended as a medicine within the meaning of the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941, and therefore should bear a disclosure of the amounts of the ingredients present. This was reported to the Pharmaceutical Society, and a reply was received to the effect that when the judgment has been given in a test action now pending in the High Court they will deal with this matter.

No. 7424. Neuro-Phosphates. The pharmacist's name and address did not appear on the bottle in accordance with the requirements of Section 18 (1) (c) (IV) of the Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933. This was reported to the Pharmaceutical Society who are taking the matter up with the pharmacist.

Special Investigations.

The following 14 samples were received for special investigation:—

2 samples of chocolate for poisons	...	None found.
1 stomach contents of calf	... ..	No evidence of phosphorus or its poisonous compounds. Zinc found in slight traces.
1 separated whey	... ..	6.72 per cent. total solids.
2 samples of human milk	... ..	(a) A.M. Fat 1.69 per cent; Solids-not-fat 9.04 per cent.
		(b) P.M. Fat 0.80 per cent.; Solids-not-fat 9.07 per cent.
1 portion of a sewage filter bed	... ..	Reddish brown spots, probably iron oxide.
7 samples including duck, vegetables, vomit, etc., for metallic poisons.	...	None found.

Chemical Analysis of Waters.

68 samples of water were analysed, and in addition to the usual routine chemical analysis, estimations of fluorine in the Compton Durville supply, the determination of the chlorine demand of various samples in connection with chlorination, and tests with reference to the action of water on metals, especially lead, were carried out.

Sewages, Effluents, etc.

The number of samples examined is given below:—

Sewage and effluents	...	...	48
River and stream samples	...	...	18
Trade effluents	...	...	8
Drinking water for cattle	...	...	1
Total	...	...	<u>75</u>

Samples of crude sewage have been analysed in connection with the proposed re-construction of sewage works. In these cases a series of samples are taken over a period to show the variations in the strength of the sewage from day to day. The trade effluents included effluents from milk, leather and paper factories.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

During the past year 20,422 samples have been examined (excluding all food and drug samples) as follows. 13 tuberculin dilutions were made and sent out.

Drinking Water—

Bacteriological examinations	...	...	...	...	1,268
Sewage, sewage effluents, rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	49
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli	...	...	...	...	3,326
Cerebro spinal fluid and post nasal swabs	...	...	...	...	34
Sputum for tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	...	2,621
Blood for typhoid, paratyphoid, other Salmonella, dysentery, and Br. abortus	...	...	...	...	226
Hairs and skin for ringworm	...	...	...	...	26
Specimens for venereal disease	...	...	...	...	1,198
Urine for tubercle bacilli, B. typhosum, B. coli, sugar, albumin, casts, etc.	...	...	...	...	110
Faeces for typhoid, other Salmonella, and dysentery	...	...	...	...	453
Swabs for hæmolytic streptococci	...	...	...	...	1,448
Milk for tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	...	1,181
Milk for bacteriological examination (general)	...	...	...	...	503
Milk—Accredited	...	...	...	...	3,616
Milk—T.T. and Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	3,502
Swabs for Vincent's angina	...	...	...	...	199
Miscellaneous specimens	...	...	...	...	662
TOTAL					<u>20,422</u>

